Weaver appreciates Tasi to Table advisors. PAGE 2
Bridge Capital vice president nominated to CPA board. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

15 DAYS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 246

www.saipantribune.com TUESDAY DECEMBER 10, 2024 www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Kingman disqualified from Villanueva case

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Kingman

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo denied the Commonwealth's motion to quash a defense subpoena while granting its motion to recuse lead prosecutor assistant attorney general James Kingman from the legislative contempt case against Shayne Blanco Villanueva.

The Dec. 4 order came amidst allegations of prosecutorial misconduct and escalating tensions between the parties in the high-profile case

At the heart of the case—the controversial Building Optimism, Opportunities, and Stability Program—a federal assistance initiative scrutinized for potential misuse of funds. Villanueva, a former contractor and program manager, was subpoenaed by the House Special Committee earlier this year to testify about alleged irregularities. When Villanueva invoked his Fifth Amendment rights, the Commonwealth pressed charges for legislative contempt.

The defense, led by attorneys Keith Chambers and Joaquin Torres, filed motions seeking to compel testimony from Kingman, citing critical communications that could substantiate Villanueva's decision to invoke his constitutional rights. The Commonwealth countered with a motion to quash the subpoena, arguing it would disrupt the trial and compromise the prosecution's

See KINGMAN on Page 4

OPA issues opinion on public official's travel outside the CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has issued an advisory opinion on whether a public official could attend an event outside the CNMI to be paid for by a foreign government.

OPA legal counsel Joseph Przyuski said as a general practice it is important that the public servant not have regulatory authority over the sponsor of the event to eliminate any such appearance of a conflict of interest.

Przyuski issued the opinion on Friday after the OPA received an inquiry about the issue. Temporary Public Auditor Dora I. Deleon Guerrero reviewed the opinion on that same day.

OPA did not disclose the identity of the requesting party and that of others involved.

According to the inquiry, the purpose of the meeting (event) was to promote closer ties and to foster cultural exchange between the Commonwealth and the foreign government.

» **Says it's important public servant not have regulatory authority over sponsor of event**

The invitation offered to pay for the public official's flight tickets, accommodation, and transportation.

Przyuski's opinion relies on the assumed general facts that the event is a legitimate pub-

See OPA on Page 4

Ex-jail guard guilty of bribery faces possible revocation of supervised release

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former Department of Corrections officer who pleaded guilty to bribery charges in the U.S. District Court for the NMI is now facing possible revocation of supervised release due to alleged positive sweat patch results.

Last week, former DOC officer Rainier Deleon Guerrero appeared before District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona for a revocation proceeding.

Previously, U.S probation officer Gregory Arriola filed a petition to revoke Deleon Guerrero's supervised release because of alleged positive sweat patch results from Oct. 2 to 11.

During the hearing, Deleon Guerrero's attorney Bruce Berline said the defendant enters a denial to the positive results stated in the supplemental declaration.

Berline requested that the urinalysis testing be increased for the defendant and that the court continue this matter.

Manglona accepted the recommendation to continue the matter and set a disposition

See EX-JAIL GUARD on Page 4

Voces wins 'Kwarta o Kahon' at Paskong Pinoy

RACQUEL FLOYD
Angel Nica Voces, fifth from left, poses for a photo with family and friends after she won $500 from "Kwarta o Kahon" game segment of the UFO-CNMI's Paskong Pinoy 2024 last Sunday at Marianas Business Plaza.

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Northern Marianas College criminal justice student Angel Nica Voces took home $500 cash during the "Kwarta o Kahon" game segment that served as the highlight of the United Filipino Organization-CNMI Paskong Pinoy 2024 held last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza.

The 18-year-old initially picked box "S" from the "PASKO" word and was offered $20, but then Voces chose the box, and the cash offer increased until it reached $300.

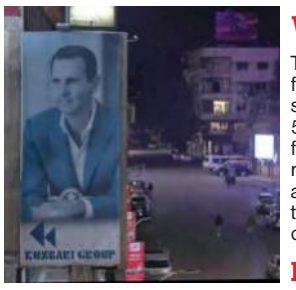
The mother of Voces, Linda. was even called to help out, since Voces is having a hard time deciding. While waiting for her decision, they decided to open one of the four boxes left wherein box "A" contained $500. but Annamae Adaza, who served as the event's emcee. said that since it's Christmas, they de-

See VOCES on Page 4

RACQUEL FLOYD
Marciano Raagas won $200 for the on-the-spot Christmas Tree-making and decorating contest.

INSIDE

LOCAL
One of the largest classrooms on the University of Guam campus was standing room only on Saturday, Nov. 16, as 70 middle and high students and their teachers came together to indulge in their favorite subject—math.
Page 9



WORLD
The Syrian government fell early Sunday in a stunning end to the 50-year rule of the Assad family after a sudden rebel offensive sprinted across government-held territory and entered the capital in 10 days.
Page 10

LIFE & STYLE
The Walt Disney Co.'s animated film "Moana 2" remained at the top of the box office in its second weekend in theaters as it brought in another record haul.
Page 11

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GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

Weaver appreciates Tasi to Table advisors

By RACQUEL H. FLOYD
raxfloyd@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

RACQUEL FLOYD

Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver, ninth from right, with officers, advisors and partners pose for a photo before dinner during An Evening with TTT event last Thursday night at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Island Club Saipan.

Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver expressed his appreciation to their advisors in his speech as they wrapped up 2024 with a dinner event last Thursday night at Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Island Club Saipan.

"The evening with TTT is designed for us to say thank you for our sponsors, our supporters and without all of you, this would not be possible... The ones that play major role in this whole program is our advisors, without the advisors, again this won't be happening today. Our advisors were the ones that take the students, they have meetings during the week, then they also assist us on Saturdays for our amazon workshops," said Weaver.

Dominic Pangelinan emceed the event and provided the TTT two-year student program through a PowerPoint presentation wherein he showed how the program connects students from various schools with shared interests beyond fishing.

Pangelinan added that the program involves a 120-hour commitment to learning and personal growth over two years. Half of the required hours are fulfilled through a Tasi to Table seminar, with strong administrative support.

According to Pangelinan, 70 students from the CNMI public school system enrolled in the program wherein the program facilitates networking among students from different high schools and the benefits include strengthening existing friendships and creating new ones.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Tasi to Table president Gene Weaver in his short speech expressed his appreciation to their advisors, sponsors and supporters.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Tasi to Table's first scholarship recipient Kina Rangamar was recognized during the event.

Furthermore, Pangelinan highlighted the student program benefits that include networking with peers across the school district and local leaders within the business community and governmental agencies.

After successful completion, students may apply for elective credit towards graduation. Exposure and entry-level experience in a wide variety of fisheries-related activities such as fishing, sailing, swimming, environmental stewardship, and career-focused skills.

The school counselors and administrators are supporting the initiative and programs.

The event also introduced Renato Abubo Jr., a second-year participant in the Tasi to Table program, who shared how the program improved his fishing skills.

Abubo expressed his gratitude for the opportunities to learn from local experts and emphasized ocean conservation and environmental protection.

Another student, Senline Kaipat, was also introduced. She highlighted how TTT helped her understand community contribution, a positive experience at a mental health bonfire and beach event, and her participation in planning a large-scale event.

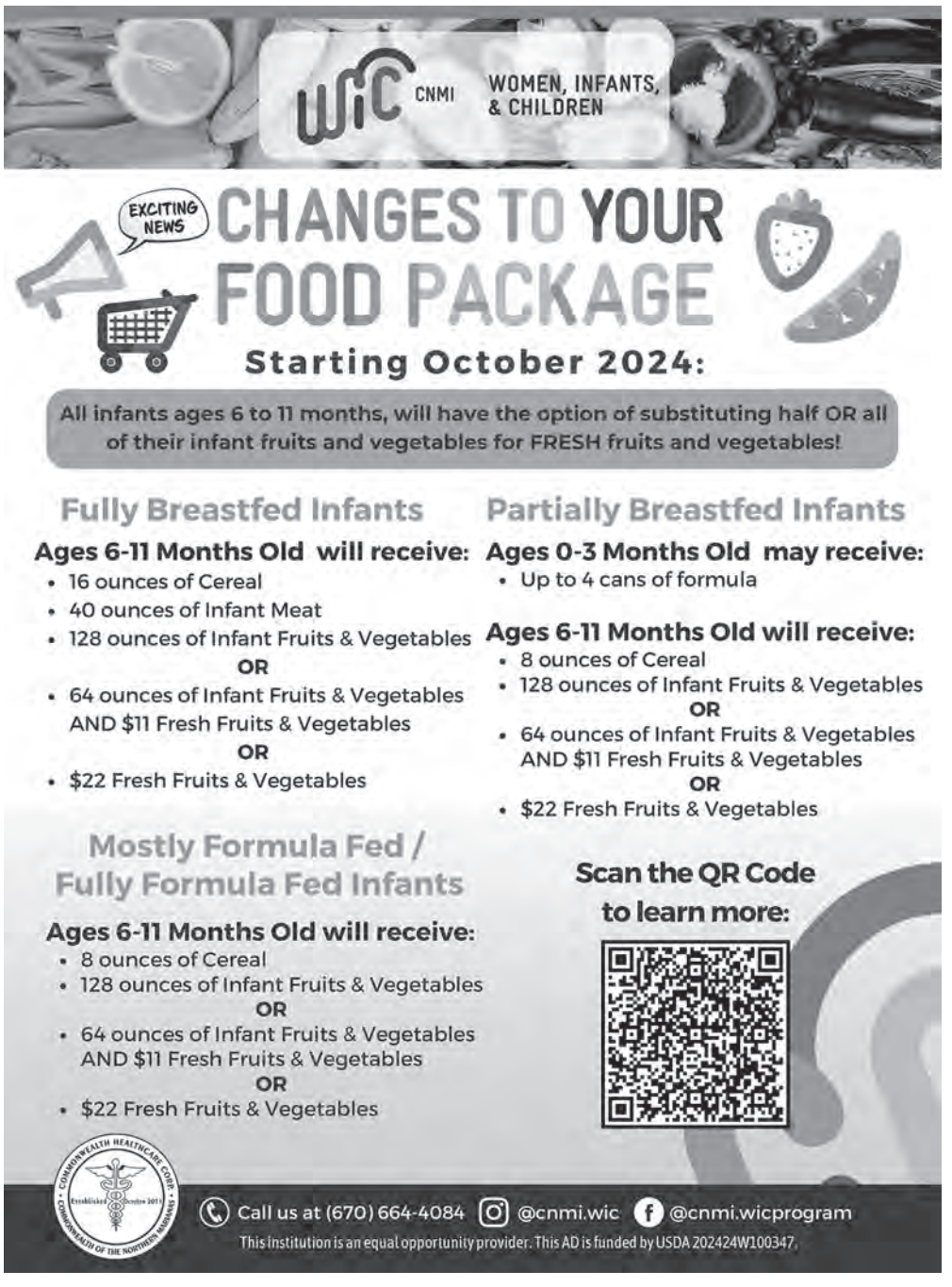
The first TTT scholarship recipient, Kina Rangamar, was also recognized.

Rangamar, in her speech, shared that she lacked fishing knowledge and swimming skills but still joined due to a friend's influence. Her two years of involvement led to travel, achievements, and career clarity.

She added that the experience fostered a passion for conservation and provided valuable mentorship wherein she praised TTT for its positive impact on future generations.

Weaver said that next year is a big year for TTT, as it marks its fifth anniversary as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. None of their success would be possible without the unwavering support of its student members, advisors, and community partners. Each of them has played a vital role in making their mission a reality.

Tasi to Table, formed in 2020, is an eight-month program that teaches students from different high schools on the island the basics of fishing. By participating in the program, high school students can accumulate the aforementioned 120 hours that go toward elective credits for graduation.


WIC CNMI
WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN
EXCITING NEWS
CHANGES TO YOUR FOOD PACKAGE
Starting October 2024:
All infants ages 6 to 11 months, will have the option of substituting half OR all of their infant fruits and vegetables for FRESH fruits and vegetables!
Fully Breastfed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 16 ounces of Cereal
• 40 ounces of Infant Meat
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Partially Breastfed Infants
Ages 0-3 Months Old may receive:
• Up to 4 cans of formula
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Mostly Formula Fed / Fully Formula Fed Infants
Ages 6-11 Months Old will receive:
• 8 ounces of Cereal
• 128 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• 64 ounces of Infant Fruits & Vegetables AND $11 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
OR
• $22 Fresh Fruits & Vegetables
Scan the QR Code to learn more:
Call us at (670) 664-4084 @cnmi.wic @cnmi.wicprogram
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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW25-ITB No.: 42500019

SUBMISSION DATE: December 30, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Renovation for the Division of Fish & Wildlife Main Office Building."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **December 10, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of pay-ment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on December 20, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST at the **Division of Fish & Wildlife Building, Lower Base, Saipan.** The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on December 23, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division,** 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

Bridge Capital vice president nominated to CPA board

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Bridge Capital vice president Bart Jackson has been nominated to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board to represent Saipan.

Last week, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios officially nominated Jackson to serve on the CPA board of directors in place of former CPA board chair Joe Ayuyu.

The nomination, however, still requires Senate approval.

In his appointment letter to Jackson, Palacios said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident in Jackson's qualifications and believe that he will commit his time and efforts to effectively represent the interests of the community on such a critical board.

Meanwhile, in his letter to Senate President Edith Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan), Palacios said he and Apatang are confident that Jackson will carry out the functions and mandates of the CPA board.

Jackson will serve the remaining term of Jose Ayuyu, who resigned from the board in October after incumbent CPA board chair Ramon Tebuteb took over.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Ayuyu tendered his resignation letter back in October.

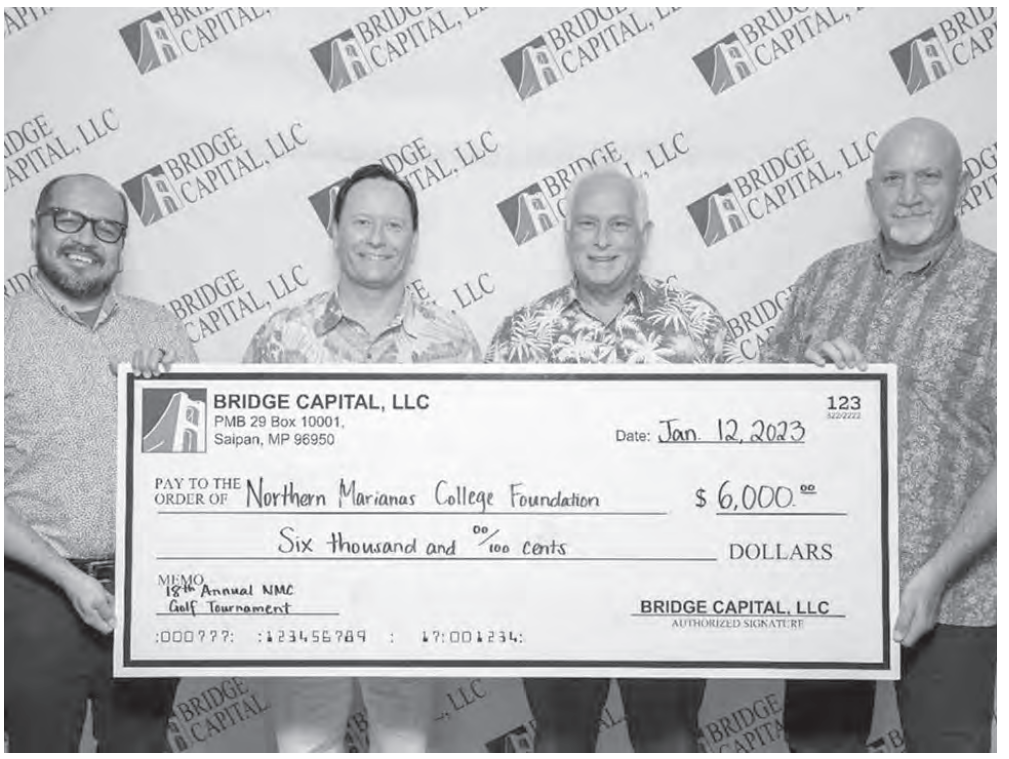
The main reason for his resignation, Ayuyu said, is that because there are people on the board appointed by the previous administration, the board would not see eye to eye from time to time.

Ayuyu further explained that he needed a team that would work with him to implement what is necessary so that CPA could help grow the islands' tourism-based economy.

Unfortunately, that was not the case, Ayuyu explained.

However, Ayuyu still thanked Palacios for giving him the opportunity to serve the people of the CNMI even for a while.

As board chairman, one of the most notable actions taken by Ayuyu was paying off airport bonds worth nearly $6 million through Divert Airfield funds in order to lower landing fees for airline partners.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bridge Capital LLC vice president/general manager Bart Jackson, right and seen here during a donation to the Northern Marianas College in January 2023, has officially been nominated by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to serve on the Commonwealth Ports Authority board to represent Saipan.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Temporary limited access to Outer Cove Marina

The National Park Service appreciates the community's patience as work progresses to replace the shoreline barrier at Outer Cove Marina.

The public is asked to use caution when accessing the marine from Dec. 9 to 13. During this period, the road will be limited to one way traffic as contractors work to remove several iron wood trees. Construction is moving into the final phase, which will include completion of the revetment, construction of a pedestrian path, and landscaping. The revetment at the east end of the marina is substantially complete. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Recorder's Office proposes uniform marriage documentation

On Nov. 26 and 27, 2024, Commonwealth Recorder's Kelsey G. Aldan, together with justices and judges, met with the Saipan Mayor Ramon B. Camacho, Rota Mayor Aubrey M. Hocog, Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, and the Northern Islands Mayor Valentino N. Taisacan to propose a standardized form for marriage application, licensing, and recordation. Special assistant to the lieutenant governor Henry S. Hofschneider, representing the Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang also attended the meeting.

"Currently, each license-issuing authority in the CNMI uses its own unique forms," said Aldan "Standardizing forms and process will improve recordkeeping and enhance clarity for government agencies and the public." Aldan proposed a single, uniform marriage application and license, and discussed in the meeting that the law requires person performing marriage to record a copy of the marriage certificate with the Recorder's Office.

Aldan's proposal is undergoing review and the consensus is to implement changes by January of 2025. ***(PR)***

Jury selection on Dec. 16 cancelled

This is to inform all prospective jurors on panel "23CS" that the jury selection scheduled for Monday, Dec. 16, 2024 at 8:30am is hereby cancelled.

For more information, contact clerk of court Patrick Diaz at Superior Court at (670) 236-9783 or (670) 783-8522. ***(PR)***

DRT to host W-2CM workshop, Dec. 17

The Division of Revenue and Taxation is inviting tax preparers and interested taxpayers to the annual W-2CM workshop on December 17th at the Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Every employer engaged in a trade or business who pays remuneration for the year (all amounts if any income, social security, or Medicare tax was withheld) for services performed by an employee must file a Form W-2CM for each employee (even if the employee is related to the employer) from whom:

- Income, Social Security, or Medicare tax were withheld.
- Income tax would have been withheld if the employee had claimed no more than one withholding allowance or had not claimed exemption from withholding on Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate.

DRT will outline the steps of preparation (i.e EWR, W-2CM, and OS-3710), deadlines, penalties, amendments, and common errors encountered.

The Department of Labor will be joining the workshop to speak on the importance of correctly and accurately filling out boxes C through F on W-2CM—citizenship, NAICS, SOC, and visa.

The W-2CM workshop is highly informative and gives tax professionals and business owners an opportunity to raise concerns directly with the Division of Revenue and Taxation. There will be two sessions available: morning, 8:30am-11:30am and afternoon, 1-4pm. Registration for either session is required via finance.gov.mp or by clicking on this link https://forms.office.com/g/msc0hwkH3y.

For more information on this W-2CM workshop, contact DRT at (670) 664-1098 or revtaxinfo@dof.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

SHEFA application deadline on Feb. 28

To all new, ongoing, and returning applicants, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance would like to inform you that our Spring 2025 applications will be available online on Dec. 1, 2024 and the deadline to apply and submit supporting documents is on Feb. 28, 2025.

For more information and updates you can check our Facebook page at Saipan SHEFA or give us a call at (670) 233-5995. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-25-002

KAGMAN WATER TANK REPLACEMENT AND BOOSTER PUMP STATION UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of demolition of the existing water tank, booster pumps, yard piping, and all other appurtenances; construction of a new 70,000-gallon cast-in-place circular concrete water tank; removal of the temporary modular tank; construction of new generator building; installation of new generator equipment, flow meter stations, triplex pitless booster pump system, telemetry and controls; reconnection of existing waterlines; electrical works; site improvements; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the project plans and specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the US Public Law 117-2 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **four hundred twenty (420) calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 5, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-25-002, Kagman Water Tank Replacement and Booster Pump Station Upgrade**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on December 27, 2024**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. L**ate submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 12, 2024** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Engineer, Water & Wastewater – via email at alley.reyes@cucgov-.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technichian Senior – via email at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

KEVIN O. WATSON
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

VOCES

From Page 4

cided not to put just one $500, and that there's still $500 in one of the boxes. Another box with the letter "O" was opened and still contained another $500 cash. Voces was then given a chance to change her choice of box from the three boxes left, she chose box "K" and when it was opened, it had the $500.

"I felt so nervous because I didn't know what to pick but feel lucky that there is someone who supported me and picked what I should choose who is my mom, Linda. We will use the money to treat my family," said Voces in an interview.

According to outgoing UFO-CNMI president Birhen Martinez, the twist on this year's "Kwarta o Kahon" game was that all the boxes contained $500 to ensure the winner would get the jackpot prize.

"We want to make sure the winner this year will get the jackpot. We felt that UFO has been blessed with so many dedicated volunteers and generous partners and sponsors. So, we really wanted to give it back to the community. It's Christmas season, after all, a joyous celebration so we want to foster that gift-giving to the community," said Martinez.

Other winners for the games are Arya Duarte, who won the first-place place in the Kids Drawing Contest and received $15 cash and $15 worth of McDonald's gift certificate; and Marciano Raagas, won $200 for the on-the-spot Christmas Tree making and decorating contest.

Raagas, 50 years old who works as a merchandiser at Ace Hardware Gualo Rai, said that he registered before Dec. 1 and immediately bought his materials to be used. He was only given three hours to make the Christmas tree and was able to finish it 30 minutes before the cut-off time.

"All the materials I used are the crushed paper, white line paper, and then carboard box... I just prepared the materials and then assembled it here," said Raagas.

Hundreds of the community members attended the traditional Paskong Pinoy, a signature UFO-CNMI event.

Incoming UFO-CNMI president Carlito Marquez said that Paskong Pinoy always has a good attendance and that the success attributed to its consistent format and tradition.

Marquez said that in his upcoming term, he plans to add activities and potentially improve the venue while maintaining the existing location at the Marianas Business Plaza).

The event started at 11am and was opened with an invocation by Segundo Lapeceros Jr., followed by the singing of the Philippine and CNMI national anthems and welcome remarks by Martinez.

The event performers include a song number by Reymond Negara and Alberto Albano, Cornerstone, Groove Theory (9-eleven Resto Bar), Marianas High School Chorale, Gus Kaipat, Green Meadow School, Fitbeat Familiazin Joel, Sessionista Band, Nhemie Cayao, Profound Bandits, Jessel Antonio, and Xtreme Fitness 670.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

RACQUEL FLOYD

United Filipino Organization-CNMI members pose for a photo at the conclusion of the Paskong Pinoy 2024. Seated on the second row eighth from left is UFO-CNMI president-elect Carlito Marquez. Beside him is outgoing president Birhen Martiniez.

RACQUEL FLOYD

Ten candidates of Bayani Association's "Gandang Pinay 2025" were presented during Paskong Pinoy 2024. From left, Aislinn Santiago Laxamana, Maria Analine Santiano Barcelo, Lyanne Kristel O. Dela Cruz, Chiaralie D. Mendoza, Zandra Caine Sagana Mariano, Ashley Mae B. Gabriel, Donna Rose Santiago, Princess Sofia S. Gerardino, Alou Buensalido, and Princess Dennice Isaac Pedrano.

EX-JAIL GUARD

From Page 1

hearing for Jan 15, 2025, at 1:30pm to address the results stated in the supplemental and any future supplementals.

The court encouraged the defendant to pursue counseling options.

In addition, Manglona said that if the defendant returns in January and all sweat patch and urinalysis results are negative, the court will not revoke the defendant's supervise release.

Deleon Guerrero remains released.

Court documents state that Deleon Guerrero was charged after allegedly receiving methamphetamine and $500 cash in exchange for smuggling a cell phone into prison.

According to the indictment issued against Deleon Guerrero and two others, their case involved a conspiracy to smuggle a cell phone with a charger into the Saipan prison for federal inmate Qiu Shuo in exchange for methamphetamine and $500 cash, to be paid to Deleon Guerrero in January 2022.

Deleon Guerrero's co-defendants are Shou Qiu, also known as Ike, and Jiang Guang Zhang, aka Fat Brother.

The indictment stated that Qiu solicited the assistance of Deleon Guerrero from inside the prison, and Deleon Guerrero relied on his friend "GG" to coordinate with Qiu's friend, Zhang, to facilitate the transaction.

It added that GG allowed Deleon Guerrero to use GG's phone to communicate with Zhang. GG also communicated with Zhang on behalf of Deleon Guerrero, the indictment stated.

"After Zhang delivered methamphetamine and cash to Deleon Guerrero, GG reaped the reward of facilitating the exchange by smoking some of the methamphetamine with Deleon Guerrero" the indictment stated.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Qiu was previously charged in federal court with one count of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance, methamphetamine, and one count of possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

OPA

From Page 1

lic event and participation in it serves a public purpose.

The legal counsel also relies on the facts that the invitation and provisions are not made for the purpose of gaining any undue influence over the public official or in exchange for any official action, and that the public official does not directly regulate the foreign government in any way.

Przyuski said while the CNMI Government Ethics Code generally prohibits acceptance of gifts by public servants, there exist certain exceptions.

Przyuski said for example, a sponsor of a public event can bear the reasonable cost of hosting such an event, including travel expenses under the Ethics Code.

He said, however, notwithstanding this exception, it would be improper for a public servant to accept such travel, any other gift, or promise of future employment with the understanding that the action would influence the public servant's judgment regarding the business of the Commonwealth.

Likewise, the OPA legal counsel said, that it is important to note that public policies underlying the Ethics Code including developing public confidence in individuals holding public office, enhancing the dignity of public offices, and assuring the community that public officials are free of the influence of undisputed private or business interests in their official acts.

Przyuski said these policies can be undermined, even in the absence of an actual conflict of interest, whenever there is an appearance of impropriety.

"Such inquiries require individual analysis of the surrounding circumstances," he said.

OPA may offer advisory opinions scenarios with respect to the Ethics Code based upon real or hypothetical concerning other sections of the CNMI Code.

Przyuski said OPA has no jurisdiction to offer general legal opinions concerning other sections of the Ethics Code.

Thus, he said, any such opinion by OPA is confined to analyzing the inquiry under the Ethics Code only.

KINGSMAN

From Page 1

effectiveness.

Govendo expressed sharp criticism of the proceedings, stating "The court would express its displeasure with the current status of this matter. The court does not deny the Commonwealth has proper jurisdiction over this matter of legislative contempt." However, he emphasized that the investigation could have benefitted from federal involvement, noting, "The FBI, in collaboration with the U.S. Attorney's Office, would have been better equipped to investigate and prosecute allegations of corruption in federal court."

Govendo further lamented the inefficiencies caused by recusal motions and delays, remarking, "This chaotic process has harmed the service of justice; the court has had to rebuild the comprehensive understanding of the case that [the previous judge] had developed over the last eight months."

He further stated, "Reassignment has imposed significant burdens on our already constrained judicial system" noting that "the proceedings between both parties have been very acrimonious to date, burdening the court with personal attacks and other disruptive conduct. Rather than ascertaining the alleged criminal liability of the defendant, the proceedings have devolved into a personal mud-slinging match between opposing counsels."

The court's findings also detailed several instances of alleged misconduct by Kingman, including improper communications with the defense. The court noted that these actions may have led Villanueva to invoke his Fifth Amendment rights and raised concerns about bias.

The judge wrote, "Kingman's phone and email communications with defendant, through Chambers, were improper and warrant recusal. The phone call had indicated that he was under investigation by the Office of the Attorney General, that the Commonwealth already had probable cause against him, and that the Commonwealth was weighing whether to charge him criminally."

Govendo reprimanded Kingman for not recusing himself earlier, concluding, "Kingman's conduct has raised the allegation of other instances of prosecutorial misconduct, which will violate Fifth Amendment due process rights." The court imposed a $500 fine on Kingman for violating ethical rules under the Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

Chambers also did not escape scrutiny. The court found Chambers' motions to recuse both Kingman and the original presiding judge, Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja, to be untimely and strategically motivated.

"The court views the mounting inefficient use of judicial resources with grave concern," Govendo stated, further adding that Chambers' delays "threaten the operational capacity of our judicial system." Chambers, too, was fined $500 for conduct deemed detrimental to the administration of justice.

Looking forward, with Kingman recused, the Commonwealth must now appoint a new prosecutor to lead the case against Villanueva. The trial, originally slated for Jan. 27, 2025, is expected to face further delays as the new prosecutor familiarizes themselves with the case's extensive history.

The court addressed potential conflicts of interest involving co-counsel Joaquin Torres, who has ties to former governor Ralph DLG Torres, a central figure in related investigations. Govendo ordered Villanueva to provide written informed consent to proceed with Joaquin Torres as his attorney.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints thanked for donation

» Special ceremony held at governor's complex

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Group photo of the donation ceremony last Nov. 22 when The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints donated wheelchairs, rollators, and hospital beds to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities

At a special ceremony at the Governor's Complex on Nov. 22, 2024, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero thanked representatives from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for a donation of wheelchairs, rollators, and hospital beds.

The healthcare equipment had previously been donated and delivered to the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, which is tasked with making sure the items make it into the homes and facilities where they are needed.

In total, the church donated 200 wheelchairs, 100 rollators (walkers), and 10 hospital beds.

Also in attendance at the ceremony were representatives of other government entities whose efforts to serve the communities of Guam will be enhanced by the donation.

Notably, members of the Guam Fire Department were present. In addition to their many duties in responding to fire and other emergencies, fire stations "serve as emergency centers for our villages," explained Leon Guererro. The fire stations will receive wheelchairs from the donation to aid in providing these essential services.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam Gov. Leon Guerrero, fourth from left, thank members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for their donation of medical equipment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Photo of the donated wheelchair and rollator from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Michelle Perez, director of DISID, spoke first at the ceremony. "The most gratifying part of the process of providing this equipment is seeing the grateful expressions of those who have been on waiting lists when they arrive and pick up their wheelchairs, walkers, and other donated items!" she said.

Leon Guerrero then spoke and thanked the Church for its donations, past and present.

"Your church is very much aligned with our values as island people and Christians, and our values of honesty, trust, integrity and respect," stated the governor. Your donation is a great testament of your connection to our people, not just on Guam, but throughout the whole of Micronesia."

The governor went on to express her pride in Guam as an island of very blessed people who live together peacefully and lovingly. "That to me is our uniqueness and our strength," she said. "You don't know how much this donation has gone a long, long way to make our lives so much better. I thank you on behalf of the people of Guam."

Brett Child, director of humanitarian efforts in the Guam/Micronesia area, concluded the ceremony by thanking the governor and all present for the privilege of working together to serve Guam.

"We love being part of this community," he said. "We are here because of our love for our Savior Jesus Christ," he said. "As a community of fellow Christians, we are grateful to be with you. These donations are all a result of the charitable donations of members of our church. It's our way of giving back." ***(PR)***

Amata takes part in Leader Jeffries' delegation to Barbados

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) took part in a 10-member Congressional Delegation to Barbados, following Thanksgiving Day, at the invitation of Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY), in which members of Congress joined the people of Barbados in commemorating their 58th Independence Day, and honored the legacy of historic Barbadian-American Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm on what would have been her 100th birthday.

"It was pleasure to honor the remarkable life of Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm, who grew up in Barbados, and she credited a strong grandmother's influence on her early life, which I and other Samoan women can relate to," said Radewagen. "She was a trailblazer and inspiration for all of us in today's much more diverse Congress."

Members of Congress were welcomed to ceremonies by President Dame Sandra Prunella Mason, and Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley. The delegation met with Mottley to strengthen relations and discuss regional security, economic development, and climate issues.

"Barbados and the Caribbean region nations have an important role in U.S. diplomacy, and in American Samoa we share the common interests that islands encounter regarding economic development, food security, health care, ports, infrastructure challenges, and changing shorelines," continued Radewagen. "Thank you to Prime Minister Mia Mottley for her welcome."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) with the Congressional Delegation in Barbados.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) and Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Independence Day events in Barbados.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) signs the guest book for the ceremony in Barbados

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) and Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley.

Last year, also at Jeffries' invitation, Radewagen took part in a delegation visit to Trinidad and Tobago, where members were joined by Secretary of State Antony Blinken at the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government Conference, also attended by Prime Minister Mottley. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

America can only hope Trump's not serious about blowing up trade partnerships

It's telling that virtually the only positive spin economists of every political persuasion are putting on Donald Trump's latest vow to ignite a global tariff war is the possibility that he doesn't actually mean it. This is one instance in which Trump's well-established tendency to say things he knows aren't true is America's best hope of avoiding a self-inflicted national economic injury.

It's beyond ironic that Trump—whose recent election to a second term was helped immeasurably, maybe decisively, by high inflation under Joe Biden's presidency—has made aggressive tariffs a centerpiece of his economic agenda. Those fees on imported foreign goods will inevitably be passed onto American consumers in the form of higher prices. They might also hurt America's manufacturing sector, as Missouri in particular learned from Trump's first-term tariff-mania.

Trump promised throughout this year's presidential campaign to hit global friends and foes alike with high new tariffs as a misguided lever to protect American jobs. But even many of his supporters dismissed it as typical Trumpian bluster designed to make him sound tough on the campaign trail.

What happened last week cannot be so easily shrugged off. Trump announced on his Truth Social platform that he will, immediately upon taking office on Jan. 20, hit Mexico and Canada each with 25% tariffs, and another 10% on top of existing tariffs against China.

He linked the Mexico and Canada tariffs specifically to immigration and drug trafficking: "This Tariff will remain in effect until such time as Drugs, in particular Fentanyl, and all Illegal Aliens stop this Invasion of our Country!"

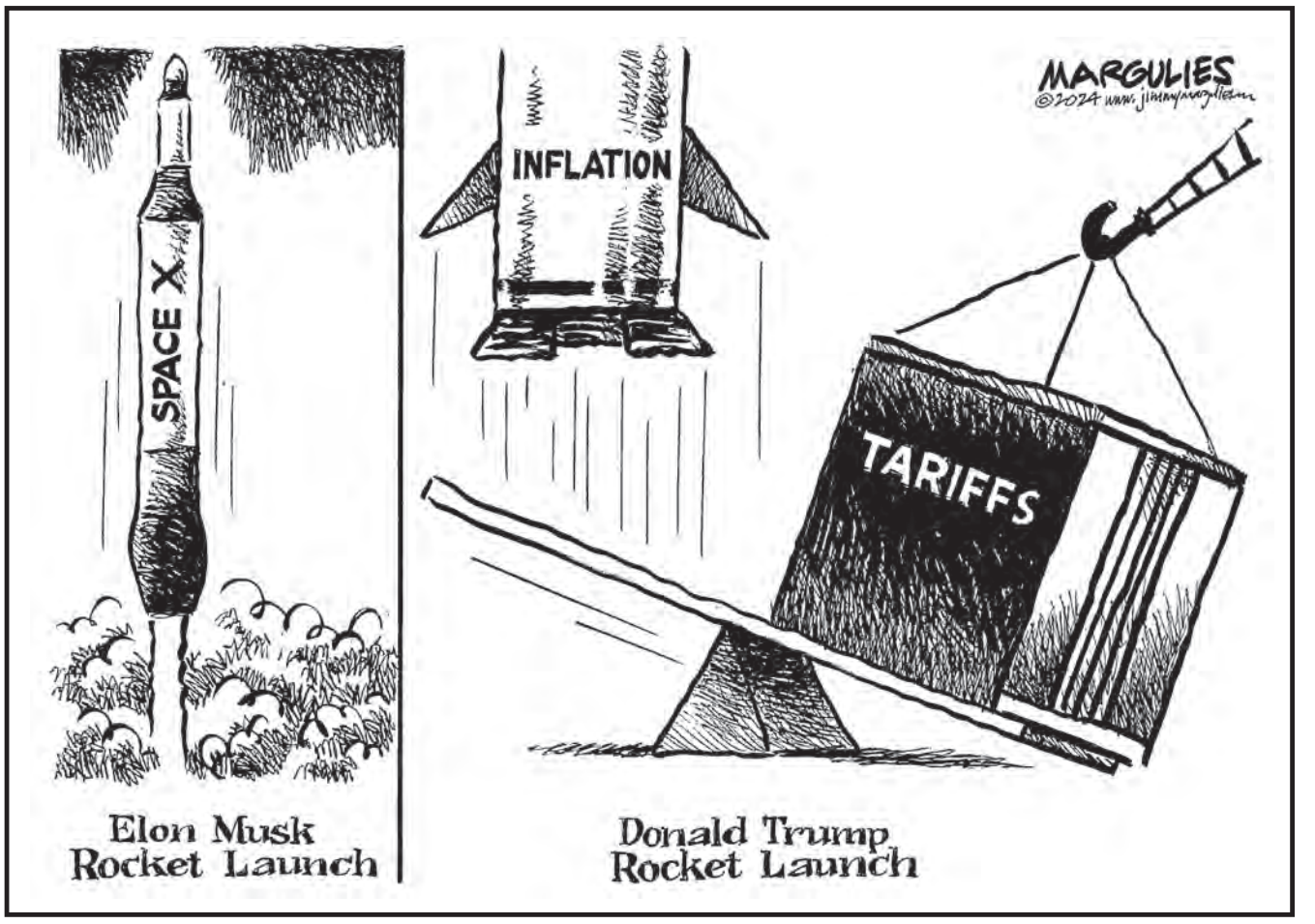
Trump is basing a radical policy announcement against America's two biggest trading partners on the utter fabrication that illegal immigrants are "bringing Crime and Drugs at levels never seen before."

He's also mischaracterizing the very real fentanyl crisis as being tied to immigration. In fact, more than 85% of people sentenced for cross-border trafficking of fentanyl in 2023 were U.S. citizens, according to a study by KFF. As aptly laid out last week by the Wall Street Journal's staunchly conservative editorial board, "Mr. Trump is threatening the countries, including two neighbors and allies, with economic harm if they don't help him solve a domestic U.S. problem."

Reasonably structured tariffs have a legitimate place in trade policy, but Trump's view of them as clubs to be swung around indiscriminately at trading partners ignores some crucial complexities.

First, tariffs are by definition a tax on American consumers. Trump spent much of this year's campaign publicly insisting that targeted countries would have to pay his promised tariffs, indicating he either doesn't understand how tariffs work or (more likely) was assuming his audiences don't.

See AMERICA on Page 7



The Supreme Court won't save Musk's DOGE plans

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion

Noah Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. A professor of law at Harvard University, he is author, most recently, of "To Be a Jew Today: A New Guide to God, Israel, and the Jewish People.".

The plans for the Department of Government Efficiency laid out by Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy are so riddled with legal problems that a law professor in exam season could save a lot of time by using their recent WSJ op-ed as the fact pattern: All you'd have to do would be to ask students to identify the constitutional flaws.

The looming conflicts of interest are the low-hanging fruit. The promises to roll back existing federal regulations by executive fiat, then fire the civil servants who administer the rules, grossly misrepresent how the regulatory process and civil service protections work under federal statutes.

But the pièce de resistance is the idea that the president can simply choose not to spend money that Congress has appropriated and directed the executive to disburse. This absurd notion violates the basic text of the Constitution, which gives Congress the power of the purse. It violates a federal statute, the Impoundment Control Act of 1974, which Congress passed when Richard Nixon tried to hold back money appropriated by Congress. It violates Supreme Court precedent going back to 1975. Oh, and did I mention? It's also a terrible idea.

Musk and Ramaswamy (or their ghostwriters) actually know that it would be unlawful and unconstitutional for President-elect Donald Trump to withhold money that Congress has directed the president to spend. (Ramaswamy went to Yale Law School, so if he doesn't know, he should.) Their position is that "Trump has previously suggested that (the ICA) is unconstitutional, and we believe the current Supreme Court would likely side with him on this question." Trump is wrong about the constitutionality of the law and also wrong, I believe, about what the Supreme Court would say.

Start with the Constitution itself, which, in Article I, Section 9, gives Congress the sole power to order appropriations. ("No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of appropriations made by law.") The basic idea is that, in a democratic republic, the government's money is the people's money, provided through taxes, so the people should decide how it's spent. This idea resonates with the American Revolution and its insistence that there be no taxation without representation. But in truth it goes back even further to 1627, when Parliament adopted the Petition of Right, establishing that no Englishman should be subject to taxation not set by Parliament.

The power to appropriate public funds necessarily comes with the power to require the funds to be spent. Otherwise, the president could set the priorities for public expenditure instead of Congress. To make that extremely clear, Congress passed the ICA. The law says that the president must spend money that Congress has appropriated. If he wants to propose holding back appropriated funds, there is a process he can follow, informing Congress that it has 45 days to pass a new law approving any potential holdback. If Congress does not act, the appropriated money must be spent.

The existence of the ICA matters, especially if Trump, under the influence of DOGE, decides to violate the law and ask the Supreme Court to overturn it as unconstitutional. According to the leading Supreme Court precedent on the balance between legislative and executive powers, Justice Robert Jackson's famous opinion in the steel seizure case, Youngstown Sheet and Tube v. Sawyer, when Congress has passed a law binding the president, his power is "at its lowest ebb" because any action taken by the president would be "incompatible with the express or implied will of Congress." The ICA makes Congress's will extraordinarily clear regarding executive spending of appropriated money. It follows that the Supreme Court would be highly likely to uphold the ICA.

That's as it should be. Congress' job as lawmaker is to tell the president what to do, and his job is to execute the law as passed by Congress. So, when Congress tells the president to spend money, he must do it. That was the conclusion of the Supreme Court in a 1975 case, Train v. City of New York, in which the Nixon administration tried to hold back money allocated to the states under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. In an opinion by Justice Byron White, the court read the statute to say that the president had to spend the money that had been allocated. Eight justices joined the opinion, and the ailing Justice William O. Douglas joined in the result without explaining why he didn't.

The upshot is that when Musk and Ramaswamy brag of their "historic opportunity for structural reductions in the federal government" based on "a decisive electoral mandate and a 6-3 conservative majority on the Supreme Court," they are grossly misrepresenting both the president and what the justices are likely to do.

Whatever Trump and his associates may believe, the court's conservative majority cares a lot about preserving the legislature's power relative to the president. Whatever else the court might do in the next four years, it won't be reversing 50 years of precedent by undermining the constitutional design to let the president refuse to spend appropriated funds.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Truth 74: The clown Ssow in DC and stop the bigotry and grow up CNMI!

By AMBROSE M. BENNETT
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ambrose M. Bennett is an economist who minored in sociology, political scientist, a retired teacher, and former CNMI Board of Education member, a James Madison Fellow (U.S. constitutional scholar), a Fulbright-Hays and lifetime humanities scholar who resides in Kagman III in the CNMI.

The truth of the matter is the majority ignored all the demons and Trump is our President, and all his appointees are criminals and unqualified turning our nation's government into a three-ring clown show with nepotism. Being a black man who was victimized by a prejudice judicial system I find that America can easily forgive and forget when it comes to whites, especially white males when a black man with a record is scorned and demonized, especially in the CNMI—bigotry rules! Trump's appointees are prejudice toward women and their rights, white supremist, a health-nut, a prejudice AG and the list goes on of the most ridiculous appointees in the history of our nation—true! The White House, the U.S. Congress, and the Supreme Court will be three-rings of clowns with real criminals and family running the show. I even warned America to buckle your seat belts in 2018, about Trump before he even took office in my book, "The Audacity to Change," on Amazon Books. I knew then Trump would bring in white supremist, cozying up to Putin and Kim, and I even predicted the rise in domestic terrorism and he's back 2.0! They asked for the Trump demons, now we will all face them—prayers! And please work with our new delegate, as she has a plan but I'm truly afraid of the GOP cuts by our fathers in Washington.

It is clear to me that white Americans want a white America even if it's a corrupt America, just like our locals wanting our corrupt Republicans for 30 straight years of corruption, favoritism, and nepotism right in our faces! But the sad part on the mainland is too many people of color, including locals, were bamboozled (fooled) into thinking Trump really cares. I just wish I could see their faces when they finally wake up only to realize they were really bamboozled. Blacks know from history that every time people of color (locals too) take one step forward in America (Obama) history shows they are pushed two steps backwards (Trumpism). Remember the Civil War and freeing the slaves followed by sharecropping Sshemes to keep blacks in debt and on the plantation and over 100 years of Jim Crow and segregation, so I'm not making this up.

The CNMI also can't escape the hypocrisy, favoritism, nepotism, and bigotry that exist here, but nobody wants to talk about it publicly when we were promised trust! It's OK among CNMI Republicans for the president and his Cabinet to be criminals when I've only been trying to help, yet our Republicans here have done everything possible to stop anything I try to do for the people regardless of the merits and even go back 50 years, bigotry at every opportunity! Stop the ugly bigotry of denying progress, as the GOP would rather see their people suffer than for Ambrose to get any credit. The governor can't fix our economy and now he's using CEDA for his shield—gaslighting and deflecting politics. Our Legislature is just going through the motions and nothing new. Our justice system still can't prosecute high profile cases with all judges recusing instead of letting the chief justice hire a judge from the U.S. every two years. There's a lot of fixing needing done and no leader listens to a real economist who even taught breaking and extending paradigms at NMC—but bigotry rules.

But it gets worse, given the 33 opportunities and nothing was done or even said by our leaders about any of them is saying a lot about all the elected officials, save three. No checks and balances nor oversight on the governor on anything, as there is no excuse for ignoring all those opportunities of merit for the people, just letting GOP bigotry ruin the CNMI just to stop Ambrose. Democrats and independents suffering GOP stockholm-bigotry, it's so pathetic that I have to LOL to keep from crying for the people who lost out on many good opportunities! But I hope readers can now see why I've been showing so much tough love with our leaders to be adults, professionals, and brave enough to say publicly based on the merits that, "maybe Mr. Bennett is right and we need to look into this," which is what should have obviously happened with the Cannabis Commission nepotism if our leaders truly care about wasting money and making tourism their business too!

Trump and Ralph reminded us that God has nothing to do with our good, bad or ugly politics—we suffer the results, as it is written, "render unto Caesar (government) that which is Caesar and unto God that which is God." We did it to ourselves voters. I'm just giving leaders the tough love they need to start fixing and improving our Commonwealth for all. We can only pray for voters and leaders to have moral character and to do the right thing. To overcome Republicans, Democrats here and on the mainland must develop a killer instinct, "as nice guys finish last in human competitions"—John Wooden. "Stop playing softball when the Republicans are playing hardball." Dems should be sick and tired of losing—I am, as lose once shame on you Dems but lose twice, shame on me if I didn't do something for a better outcome! But I must offer a big thank you to JusticeFighter7 for being the only one to finally show up with an objective comment of truth when my Democrats like I knew they would, buried their heads in the sand to my op-ed, as ignoring good advice is a losing strategy for true! It's time to grow up politically and grow big in the tourism industry or else the same-o same-o taya! There are some great people in the CNMI who deserve much better, as your leaders' attitude determines our altitude. So, please start attending Mass, undo your narrow prejudice mindset and get your mind, your people, and the CNMI out of the gutter!

AMERICA

From Page 6

In fact, tariffs are paid by U.S. importers, which then pass the cost on in the form of higher prices for goods — as consumers discovered during Trump's first term. Among his trade policies were targeted tariffs on imported washing machines, which was meant to bolster U.S. manufacturing but which primarily just drove up prices across the entire U.S. market.

Trump's planned tariffs against Mexico and Canada would do even more damage to Americans' pocketbooks. Together, those two countries provide roughly one-third of all the fruits and vegetables sold in the U.S. Those produce prices would rise immediately as importers pass the tariffs on to American distributors and grocers. Meanwhile, tariffs on Canadian petroleum could drive up U.S. gas pump prices by as much as 75 cents a gallon by some estimates.

And that's before even getting into the impact that likely retaliatory tariffs from those countries would have on foreign sales of American goods. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum immediately threatened such retaliation after Trump's announcement last week.

Even under a best-case scenario in which Trump is merely threatening tariffs as a bargaining chip on trade and other issues, the threat alone is typically reckless. U.S. automobile manufacturers are especially jittery about the possibility of new tariffs, since that industry's supply chain crosses national borders repeatedly with the making of virtually every car. No wonder General Motors' shares plummeted last week after Trump's announcement.

Since most major manufacturing today involves supply chains that span national borders, even policies that spur U.S. manufacturing can also hurt it. Missouri saw that firsthand during Trump's first term, when the Noranda Aluminum plant, in the Bootheel, was initially aided by tariffs on foreign competition—only to see those same tariffs spur major shifts in the global aluminum supply chain that ended up devastating the Missouri company's sales.

As it happens, Missouri has two Republican senators and a half-dozen House members who, to one degree or another, have Trump's ear or the ears of those around him. Should he go through with this reckless tariff binge, and those members of Congress do nothing to oppose it, let no one forget that abrogation of duty when local prices rise and jobs are lost.

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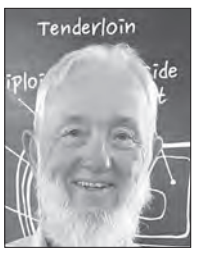
Senescent sonnets from Batbon's brane

(A titillating tautological trilogy)

LITERARY NOOK



By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.

Alive at 75—surviving, thriving, and jiving

(a facetious entry from a dementia diary)

Come along while I still remember who 'me' is
you'll find 'me' on the corner of Senescent Street
and Dementia Dawn Drive, in house number 75
home of Al Zheimer's Ruminating Rhymers band.
You'll need to find your own wormhole to get here
this aspect of my being lives in Batbon's Brane
a parallel universe which I gain access to by my
corpus callosum via the Neural Network River
the only river in the world that flows both ways.
Here comes the onslaught sought without thought
freestyle all the while with and without a smile
neural activity influenced by brain space gravity.
Yesterday's child older today now meek and mild
no papers filed, no numbers dialed, beguiled …
fresh BS gets piled, more horse manure for sure
senescence goes on tour, yes, but we'll all endure.
Fun under the Saipan sun, the day is almost done
doggerel poetry has won, my race is almost run.

Ma ma hu hu—to explain the pain

Some explanations for the origin of 'OK':
"it's an abbreviation of the humorous misspelling
"oll korrect" in an 1839 Boston newspaper; or
"Old Kinderhook", a nickname for former U.S.
President Martin van Buren, a campaign slogan for
Van Buren was, "O.K. is OK with me" In German
it is 'alles korrekt"; In Latin "omnes korrecta".

It is no pain to explain my body pain
and I expect that I'll be doing it again
since pain has become a ruler in my brain
when friends and family ask,"how have you been?'
my answer usually alludes to existential Zen
sometimes the answer is in putonghua Chinese
it does not refer to senescence or disease
in pinyin the four word phrase is 'mamahuhu'
which simply translates as horse horse tiger tiger
a Chinese way of saying "OK" or "so so"
the horse is a domestic animal, the tiger is wild
so you're feeling somewhat in between the two
Chinese will understand exactly what you mean.
It's a way to not complain yet explain the pain.

I can't remember where i am

(a facetious excerpt from a dementia diary)

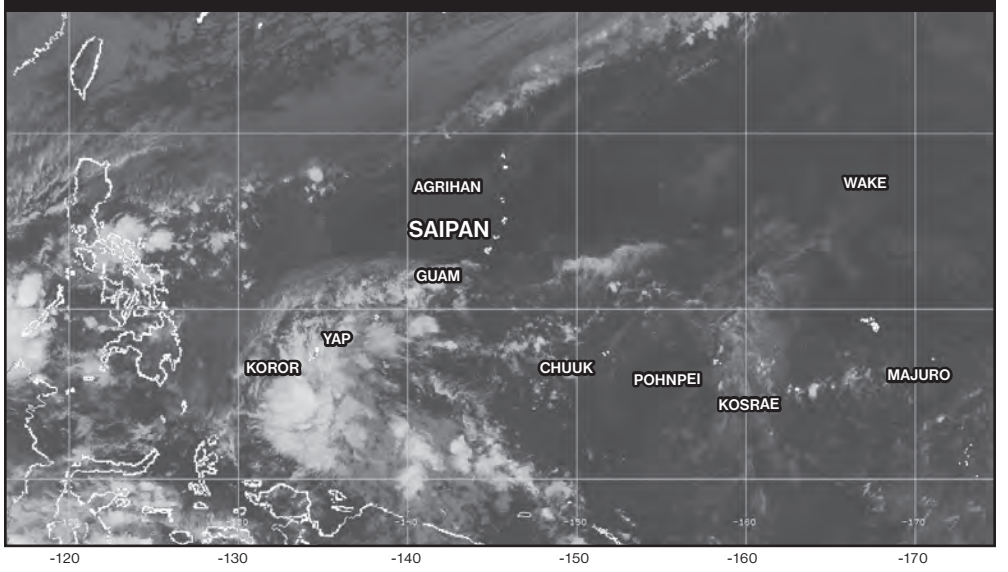
Your brain is going you have no way of knowing
when you can't remember where you were born
other things from your past how long will it last.
When you can't recognize your loved one's faces
you wind up in parking lots counting car spaces
but you don't have a car and don't drive any more.
A few times a month people say you go missing
but you do remember the joys of French kissing.
When your wedding band somehow went missing
when you started all night long frequent pissing
the ring found in a jar of rusty screws, bolts, and nuts
you and your drinking buddies all have big beer guts.
Don't get over concerned with senescence and old age
Take a walk, sing a song, get outside the house cage.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly sunny with isolated light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of light showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 10 percent chance of light showers.	Breezy. Mostly sunny with a 10 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 78°	88° 78°	86° 78°	87° 78°	86° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:19 AM MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Dry is the word of the day this week. Winds have lowered a bit, but are expected to build up again toward the end of the week. Retained some breezy wording, and at that time a Small Craft Advisory might be possible, but the GEFSwave isn`t all that excited. In the case of both winds and seas, it only has about a 30 percent chance of meeting SCA criteria. So, it`s a dry season forecast, only thing that remains to be seen is whether wet season will have one more hurrah out in the last half of the month.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Palau	Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	86° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	86° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Wednesday	6:32 AM	5:47 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	5:47 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	5:48 PM
Saturday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:04 AM	1:25 PM
Wednesday	-	2:00 AM	2:06 PM
Thursday	-	2:58 AM	2:51 PM
Friday	-	4:00 AM	3:40 PM
Saturday	-	5:04 AM	4:35 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°
Beijing	Sunny	36° / 18°
Hong Kong	Cloudy	68° / 55°
Honolulu	Showers	76° / 67°
London	Partly Cloudy	39° / 32°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	79° / 51°
Manila	Showers	81° / 73°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	77° / 55°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	76° / 64°
New York	Cloudy	33° / 30°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	52° / 36°
Paris	Showers	43° / 34°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	41° / 21°
Rome	Showers	55° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	60° / 37°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 49°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	30° / 12°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	55° / 37°
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	38° / 30°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:15 AM	High Tide	1.23
8:27 AM	Low Tide	0.33
3:10 PM	High Tide	1.84
10:11 PM	Low Tide	0.30

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	1:20PM	4:00PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA183	7:55PM	9:50PM	Daily
UA193	7:55PM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Palau

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3218/2305	2:45AM	10:20PM	Daily via Incheon
UA076/183 Guam	9:50AM	9:50PM	Daily via
UA076/193	9:50AM	11:50PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily
7C3218	2:45AM	6:45AM	Daily from Dec 8
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3552	3:55AM	7:20AM	3, 6 from Dec 25

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	3:05AM	5:55AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	10:05PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA156	00:40AM	6:25AM	3, 6
PR110	10:05PM	3:55AM+1	Daily
UA192	10:40PM	6:30AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	10:55PM	4:40AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA156	00:40AM	8:45AM	3, 6 via Guam
UA192/174	10:40PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:55PM	8:45AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3407	11:20PM	3:30PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily
TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily
7C3217	8:10PM	1:40AM+1	Daily from Dec 8

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3551	9:25PM	2:50AM+1	2, 5 from Dec 25

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

UOG sets stage for STEM careers with high school Math Day

One of the largest classrooms on the University of Guam campus was standing room only on Saturday, Nov. 16, as 70 middle and high students and their teachers came together to indulge in their favorite subject—math. It was the 14th UOG Math Day, an event designed to get youth excited about pursuing math courses in college and to give them confidence toward pursuing STEM degrees and careers.

"Several students who end up majoring in math at UOG had experienced Math Day when they were in high school," said Dr. Hideo Nagahashi, professor of mathematics at UOG and lead organizer of Math Day. "Math Day participants have also gone on to be accepted into advanced degree programs in the U.S. mainland."

Launched in 2008 by then-math assistant professors Dr. Alicia Aguon and Dr. Grazyna Badowski, UOG Math Day invites inspirational guest speakers and has evolved to include a math quiz competition as well. While it has been a high school event in years past, this year was the first year that middle schoolers participated as well. Students competed in teams answering timed questions in algebra, geometry, statistics, pre-calculus and calculus.

In his welcoming remarks, Dr. Maika Vuki, interim associate dean of UOG's College of Natural & Applied Sciences, described math as a universal language and a highly versatile subject.

"We cannot move into any other branch of science without mathematics," he said. "We're so excited to have you—the young generation, the future generation of STEM—here with us."

The event has become well-known among public and private school math teachers—some have been bringing their students since the first Math Day in 2008.

"I don't even know how many I've been to," said Lindsay Hashberger, a high school teacher at Harvest Christian Academy. "I think it's good for [our students] to be in a university setting, where they're getting to see people who have made [math] their career. Whether they do great in the competition or not, I want them to come and have the experience of hearing from someone they wouldn't have heard from and seeing who else is in the math community."

UOG

Dr. Leslie Aquino, chair of the Division of Mathematics & Computer Science at UOG, welcomes 70 middle and high school students to the 14th UOG Math Day on Nov. 16, 2024.

UOG

Daichi Matsumoto, a visiting math teacher from Jiyunomori Gakuen Junior and Senior High School in Japan, engages students in an interactive lecture at UOG's Math Day on Nov. 16, 2024.

UOG

Yaxin Liu, left, and Celina Kim from Harvest Christian Academy collaborate on their answer during the high school algebra, geometry, and statistics quiz competition at UOG's Math Day on Nov. 16, 2024.

Guest speaker: 'Leading students to their own discoveries'

The guest speaker this year was Daichi Matsumoto, who refers to himself as an experimental math teacher at Jiyunomori Gakuen Junior & Senior High School in Japan. He has developed original lectures that have resulted in invitations to lecture at schools around Japan.

"Instead of mechanically following the textbook and rules of mathematical computation, he presents the materials from his own perspectives, leading students to their own discoveries," Nagahashi said. "He encourages students to think, discuss, and speak—no matter what their ideas are."

Matsumoto said he always considers that the concepts and theorems presented to students in a math class could be just a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

"So I always stage my lecture so that I will be as dramatic and memorable as possible for them," Matsumoto said. "[…] I believe my lectures will motivate students to study further if their first encounter is dramatic."

He engaged Guam's students in an interactive lecture of looking for patterns in complex number structures. His approach was to never provide the answers or solutions, but rather to have the students come up and show the class what they had figured out.

"It was a beautiful scene," he said. "Students with different grades and backgrounds tackled the same problem."

Quiz competition winners

In the middle school quiz competition, 11 teams competed with three tying for first place:

- Hanyoung Park and Chanyoung Park, Luis P. Untalan Middle School
- Kelly Cho and Melody Cho, St. John's School
- Derrick Yan and Donggeon Kim, St. John's School

In the high school algebra, geometry, and statistics competition, 14 teams competed with the following winners:

- First place: Alick Zhao and Noah Kim, St. John's School
- Second place: Yaxin Liu and Celina Kim, Harvest Christian Academy
- Third place: Claire Suh and Offeia Yordy, St. John's School

In the high school pre-calculus and calculus competition, 12 teams competed with four tying for first place:

- Chaemin You and Ye-Jun Yeo, Harvest Christian Academy
- Vivian Wen and Shiyori Shibahata, Harvest Christian Academy
- Leon Park and Sihoo Kim, John F. Kennedy High School
- Chanju Lee and Zunaid Jafar, St. John's School

Math Day is supported by a Docliani Mathematics Enrichment Grant from the Mathematical Association of America. ***(PR)***

UOG

UOG student Michael Tenorio reviews scores as a volunteer judge for the Math Quiz Competition at UOG Math Day on Nov. 16, 2024, on the UOG campus.

UOG

Leon Park, a student from John F. Kennedy High School, carefully considers a pattern in a set of numbers during the guest lecture at UOG's Math Day on Nov. 16, 2024.

UOG

From left, UOG math and computer science majors Yoonji Seo, Lydia Sombria, Shannon Ada, and Joriza Luzano assist with registration at UOG Math Day on Nov. 16, 2024, on the UOG campus.

UOG

Faculty in the Division of Mathematics & Computer Science at UOG, from left, Dr. Joo-Chul Yoon, Katrina Quinata, Dr. Hyunju Oh, Dr. Leslie Aquino, Dr. Hideo Nagahashi, and Dr. Byoungyong Lee. The division has been putting on UOG Math Day since 2008.

World

Syrian gov't falls in stunning end to 50-year rule of Assad family

BEIRUT (AP)—The Syrian government fell early Sunday in a stunning end to the 50-year rule of the Assad family after a sudden rebel offensive sprinted across government-held territory and entered the capital in 10 days.

Syrian state television aired a video statement by a group of men saying that President Bashar Assad has been overthrown and all detainees in jails have been set free.

The man who read the statement said the Operations Room to Conquer Damascus, an opposition group, called on all opposition fighters and citizens to preserve state institutions of "the free Syrian state."

The statement emerged hours after the head of a Syrian opposition war monitor said Assad had left the country for an undisclosed location, fleeing ahead of insurgents who said they had entered Damascus following the remarkably swift advance across the country.

Syrian Prime Minister Mohammed Ghazi Jalali said the government was ready to "extend its hand" to the opposition and turn its functions over to a transitional government.

"I am in my house and I have not left, and this is because of my belonging to this country," Jalili said in a video statement.

AP

A giant banner of Syrian President Bashar Assad hangs on the facade of a building, as pedestrian walk through an the empty streets of Damascus, Syria, Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024.

He said he would go to his office to continue work in the morning and called on Syrian citizens not to deface public property.

He did not address reports that Assad had fled.

Rami Abdurrahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights told The Associated Press that Assad took a flight Sunday from Damascus.

State television in Iran, Assad's main backer in the years of war in Syria, reported that Assad had left the capital. It cited Qatar's Al Jazeera news network for the information and did not elaborate.

There was no immediate statement from the Syrian government.

As daylight broke over Damascus, crowds gathered to pray in the city's mosques and to celebrate in the squares, chanting "God is great." People also chanted anti-Assad slogans and honked car horns. In some areas, celebratory gunshots rang out.

Soldiers and police officers left their posts and fled, and looters broke into the headquarters of the Ministry of Defense.

"My feelings are indescribable," said Omar Daher, a 29-year-old lawyer. "After the fear that he (Assad) and his father made us live in for many years, and the panic and state of terror that I was living in, I can't believe it."

Daher said his father was killed by security forces and his brother was in detention, his fate unknown. Assad "is a criminal, a tyrant and a dog," he said."

"Damn his soul and the soul of the entire Assad family," said Ghazal al-Sharif, another reveler in central Damascus. "It is the prayer of every oppressed person and God answered it today. We thought we would never see it, but thank God, we saw it."

The police headquarters in the capital appeared to be abandoned, its door left ajar with no officers outside. An Associated Press journalist shot footage of an abandoned army checkpoint where uniforms were discarded on the ground under a poster of Assad's face. Footage broadcast on opposition-linked media showed a tank in one of the capital's central squares.

It was the first time opposition forces had reached Damascus since 2018, when Syrian troops recaptured areas on the outskirts of the capital following a yearslong siege.

The pro-government Sham FM radio reported that the Damascus airport had been evacuated and all flights halted.

The insurgents also announced they had entered the notorious Saydnaya military prison north of the capital and "liberated" their prisoners there.

The night before, opposition forces took the central city of Homs, Syria's third largest, as government forces abandoned it. The city stands at an important intersection between Damascus, the capital, and Syria's coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartus—the Syrian leader's base of support and home to a Russian strategic naval base.

The rebels had already seized the cities of Aleppo and Hama, as well as large parts of the south, in a lightning offensive that began Nov. 27. Analysts said rebel control of Homs would be a game-changer.

The rebels' moves into Damascus came after the Syrian army withdrew from much of southern part of the country, leaving more areas, including several provincial capitals, under the control of opposition fighters.

S. Korea's democracy held after 6-hour power play. What does it say for democracies elsewhere?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—In an era of rising authoritarianism, at the heels of a six-hour martial law decree that unfolded while many South Koreans slept, something noteworthy happened: Democracy held.

The past week in Seoul, officials and academics warn, is what a threat to democracy looks like in 2024. It's a democratically-elected president declaring martial law over the nation he leads, asserting sweeping powers to prevent opposition demonstrations, ban political parties and control the media. It's members of the military attempting to block lawmakers from exercising their power to vote on cancelling the power grab.

And here's what it took to defeat President Yoon Suk Yeol 's lurch toward government by force:

Unified popular support for democracy. Legislators storming the National Assembly past midnight, live-streaming themselves climbing over fences. A politician grabbing at a soldier's rifle and yelling "Aren't you ashamed?" until he retreated. And finally, decisively, Parliament assembling a quorum and voting unanimously to cancel martial law.

It was a victory for a hard-won democracy—and for the idea that checks and balances among branches of government must work to counteract each other's ambitions, as the American founders wrote in the Federalist Papers in 1788.

But as the drama played out in Seoul, the scaffolding of democracy rattled around the world.

In other countries, the grab for power might have worked. Other would-be authoritarians might have been better prepared than Yoon.

In deeply polarized societies—the United States, for example, where Republicans are staunchly loyal to president-elect Donald Trump—there might not have been decisive support from the public or the opposition. The military might have used force. And the members of the legislature might not have voted as one to snuff out the attempted takeover.

"President Yoon's attempt to declare martial law reveals the fragility of the rule of law in divided societies, especially those with governments in which the chief executive cannot be easily dismissed by the legislature," said Tom Pepinsky, a government professor at Cornell University who studies backsliding among democracies in Southeast Asia.

Notably, he said in an email, "No members of President Yoon's own party were willing to defend his actions in public."

Nevertheless, Yoon's surprise attempt to impose martial law revealed both the fragility and resilience of the country's democratic system.

Within three hours of his stunning announcement to impose military rule—claiming the opposition was "paralyzing" state affairs—190 lawmakers voted to cancel his actions. In so doing, they demonstrated the strength of the country's democratic checks and balances.

Yoon's authoritarian push, carried out by hundreds of heavily armed troops with Blackhawk helicopters and armored vehicles sent to the National Assembly, harked back to an era of dictatorial presidents. The country's democratic transition in the late 1980s came after years of massive protests by millions that eventually overcame violent suppressions by military rulers.

Civilian presence was again crucial in shaping the events following Yoon's late night television announcement on Tuesday. Thousands of people flocked to the National Assembly, shouting slogans for martial law to be lifted and Yoon to step down from power. There were no reports of violent clashes as troops and police officers.

"We restored democracy without having a single casualty this time," said Seol Dong-hoon, a sociology professor at South Korea's Jeonbuk National University.

It's virtually impossible for any leader of a democracy to pull off a transition toward martial law without a public willing to support it, or at least tolerate it.

Opposition leader Lee Jae-myung, who narrowly lost to Yoon in the 2022 presidential election, attracted millions of views as he began live-streaming his journey to the National Assembly, pleading for people to converge to the parliament to help lawmakers get inside. The shaky footage later shows him exiting his car climbing over a fence to get onto the grounds.

The vote at the National Assembly was also broadcast live on the YouTube channel of Assembly Speaker Woo Won Shik, who also had to scale a fence to get in.

Yoon's sense of crisis clearly wasn't shared by the public, whose opinions, Seol said, were shaped predominantly by the shocking videos broadcast to their devices.

"Ultimately, democracy is all about moving public opinion," he said. "What was most crucial in this case was that everything was broadcast live on smartphones, YouTube and countless other media."

Opposition lawmakers are now pushing to remove Yoon from office, saying he failed to meet the constitutional requirement that martial law should only be considered in wartime or a comparable severe crisis — and that he unlawfully deployed troops to the National Assembly.

Life & Style

‘Moana 2’ cruises to another record weekend and $600 million globally

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

The Walt Disney Co.’s animated film “Moana 2” remained at the top of the box office in its second weekend in theaters as it brought in another record haul.

The film added $52 million, according to studio estimates Sunday. That brings its domestic total to $300 million, surpassing the original, and its global tally to a staggering $600 million.

AP

This image released by Disney shows the characters Moana, voiced by Auli'i Cravalho, left, and Chief Tui, voiced by Temuera Morrison, in a scene from “Moana 2.”

The amount set a record gross for a movie on the weekend following Thanksgiving weekend, unseating “Frozen II,” which earned $35.2 million in the same time frame in 2019. The numbers are not adjusted for inflation. Originally conceived as a Disney+ series, “Moana 2” has already broken into the top five highest grossing releases of the year. Its performance means Disney has three films in this year’s top five, including “Inside Out 2” and “Deadpool & Wolverine.” The studio also has another big movie on the way before the year ends: Barry Jenkins’ “Mufasa,” out Dec. 20.

The weekend also showcased several new releases, including A24’s horror comedy “Y2K” and the Jude Law crime thriller “The Order.” But nothing was ever going to present significant competition to the enticing Thanksgiving leftovers, “Moana 2,” “Wicked” and “Gladiator II.”

Second place at the box office was occupied by “Wicked,” which added $34.9 million, bringing its domestic total to $320.5 million in three weeks. Globally, the musical adaptation released by Universal is at $455.6 million. “Gladiator II” followed in third place with $12.5 million, while “Red One” came in fourth with $7 million.

“These holdovers are going to create the momentum that’s going to put an $8.5 billion-plus box office year on the horizon,” said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore.

Pre-pandemic, $11 billion had become the annual norm for the movie business. Since then, the closest the industry has gotten to that number was last year, which cracked $9 billion. This year started off slow and up to a few months ago, Dergarabedian said, even hitting $8 billion for the year was in doubt. But in the two weeks since Thanksgiving, the deficit from last year has narrowed by over 5%.

The newcomers struggled to make a significant impact. Even the 10th anniversary re-release of Christopher Nolan’s “Interstellar,” which played in only 165 theaters, did better than “Y2K” ($2.1 million) and “The Order” ($878,000) combined. Paramount reported that the science fiction epic starring Matthew McConaughey and Anne Hathaway brought in an estimated $4.4 million. IMAX also noted that all the 70mm IMAX presentations of “Interstellar” were sold out through the weekend.

“I was thrilled so many moviegoers took advantage of the original IMAX experience of ‘Interstellar’ this weekend,” Nolan said in a statement.

The biggest of the many newcomers was the Indian action pic “Pushpa: The Rule – Part 2,” which earned $4.9 million. Sony and Crunchyroll’s anime release, “Solo Leveling – ReAwakening,” made $2.4 million. Fathom also released pop duo for KING + COUNTRY’s “A Drummer Boy Christmas” concert in theaters where it made $2.1 million.

“It’s a really diverse marketplace,” Dergarabedian said. “There’s event cinema, international cinema, a re-release of a 10-year-old film. It’s easily one of the most eclectic and interesting lineups I’ve ever seen.”

Next weekend theaters are in for another influx of bigger movies, with both Sony’s comic book film “Kraven the Hunter” and the animated “The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim” opening in wide release. Awards contenders “Nickel Boys” and “September 5” will also open in a limited number of theaters.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Moana 2,” $52 million.
2. “Wicked,” $34.9 million.
3. “Gladiator II,” $12.5 million
4. “Red One,” $7 million.
5. “Pushpa: The Rule – Part 2,” $4.9 million.
6. “Interstellar” re-release, $4.4 million.
7. “Solo Leveling – ReAwakening,” $2.4 million.
8. “Y2K,” $2.1 million.
9. “for KING + COUNTRY’S: A Drummer Boy Christmas,” $2.1 million.
10. “The Best Christmas Pageant Ever,” $1.5 million.

The stars will come out at the Kennedy Center for Coppola, the Grateful Dead, Raitt and Sandoval

WASHINGTON (AP)— Celebrities, cultural icons and a few surprise guests are gathering for the annual Kennedy Center Honors celebration Sunday evening in Washington.

This year’s recipients of the lifetime achievement award for artistic accomplishment are director Francis Ford Coppola,the Grateful Dead, jazz trumpeter Arturo Sandoval, and singer-songwriter Bonnie Raitt. In addition, the venerable Harlem theater The Apollo, which has launched generations of Black artists, is being recognized.

There will be personalized tributes with performances and testimonials from fellow artists during the gala at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Medallions were presented during the traditional Saturday night ceremony at the State Department.

The tribute performances are often kept secret from the recipients themselves, most notably in 2018 when Cyndi Lauper flat out lied to her longtime friend Cher about being unable to attend. Lauper appeared on stage to perform Cher’s hit, “If I Could Turn Back Time.”

Several of the latest honorees have themselves participated in past tributes to friends and colleagues at the Kennedy Center.

Coppola spoke during fellow director Martin Scorsese’s induction in 2007. Sandoval performed in the tribute to his mentor, jazz trumpet legend Dizzy Gillespie. Raitt has taken part in tributes to Buddy Guy and Mavis Staples. Raitt even attended the Kennedy Center Honors in the 1970s when her father, Broadway performer John Raitt, was taking part in a tribute to composer Richard Rogers.

The tribute to the Grateful Dead is expected to double as a memorial to the band’s founding bass player Phil Lesh, who died in October at age 84.

This could also be the last Kennedy Center Honors ceremony without political intrigue for a while.

During Republican Donald Trump’s first four years in office, Kennedy Center officials were forced to walk a public tightrope between the tradition of the president attending the ceremony and the open antipathy toward Trump from multiple honorees. In 2017, recipient Norman Lear threatened to boycott his own ceremony if Trump attended. Trump, who takes office in January, skipped the ceremony for the entirety of his first term.

Relationship with mom has never been a positive one

DEAR ABBY: I am a 43-year-old woman who has struggled with self-esteem and personal relationships my entire life. My fiance and I have talked in depth about past trauma, but it wasn't until within the past year that I've realized how much of an impact my mother had on those aspects of my life.

From as far back as I can remember, she always told me that from the moment I was born, she had a hard time connecting with me, and I wasn't loving toward her. How could that have possibly been something I caused? I suspect she may have had postpartum issues, and she is now a fully diagnosed bipolar individual.

I watch her have functional relationships with lots of other people, but still, to this day, we have almost no connection. I feel guilty about the state of our relationship but worse when I witness the way she treats others compared to me. Am I a terrible daughter?

DISCONNECTED IN OHIO

DEAR DISCONNECTED: If what your mother said is true, remember that for the most part, children react lovingly toward people who are loving to them. You are not responsible for your mother's diagnosed mental illness, which may be why she had so much trouble relating to you. You are not a terrible daughter. If you have any doubts about what I have written, please consult a licensed mental health professional who can help you understand that you have nothing to feel guilty about.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I will soon celebrate our 11th anniversary. Together since we were 19, we're now in our mid-30s with two children.

Abby, I can't seem to shake the feeling my husband is cheating on me. For the past two years all he wants is sex, on his time. If he doesn't get it within his "timeline," he gets angry and has an attitude. If he doesn't get it at all that day, I'll hear about it for days afterward.

I love my husband with all my heart, but he is not a great dad. It kills me to see him brush the kids off when they are so excited to see him, hug him and play. But my husband doesn't play with them, doesn't snuggle with them on random days off or lounge around with them. I get jealous seeing dads playing with their kids and just being goofy for hours.

He works all the time and worries about his work calls. All my life I wanted a husband who would be a great dad. What I'm trying to ask is, if he isn't into our kids, is always stressed, isn't playful in a non-sexual way with me anymore and only wants sex, is he seeing someone else to fulfill his needs?

HEARTBROKEN WIFE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

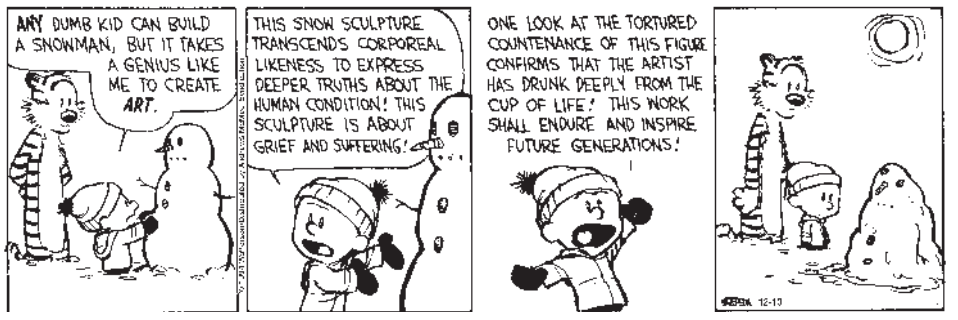
DEAR WIFE: There are plenty of issues in your marriage that need working on, but I doubt that a man who often wants sex with his wife is cheating. You stated that he doesn't relate well to the children and is always stressed. Once you understand the reasons, things may improve. Marriage counseling might help you achieve that.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

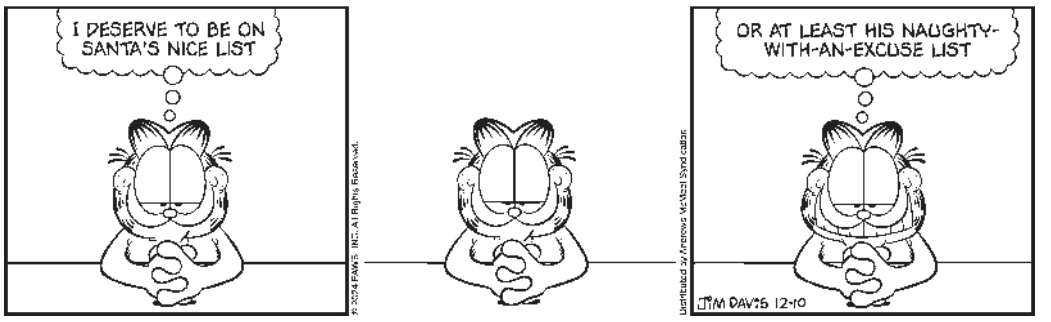
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


ANY DUMB KID CAN BUILD A SNOWMAN, BUT IT TAKES A GENIUS LIKE ME TO CREATE ART.
THIS SNOW SCULPTURE TRANSCENDS CORPOREAL LIKENESS TO EXPRESS DEEPER TRUTHS ABOUT THE HUMAN CONDITION! THIS SCULPTURE IS ABOUT GRIEF AND SUFFERING!
ONE LOOK AT THE TORTURED COUNTENANCE OF THIS FIGURE CONFIRMS THAT THE ARTIST HAS DRUNK DEEPLY FROM THE CUP OF LIFE! THIS WORK SHALL ENDURE AND INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ARE YOU JUST GONNA STAY UNDER THERE?
YES. I HAVE ENOUGH CANDY TO SURVIVE FOR DAYS.
HA. WELL, THAT'S NOT EXACTLY A BALANCED DIET.
I'M NOT AN ANIMAL. I HAVE GINGERBREAD MEN FOR FIBER.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

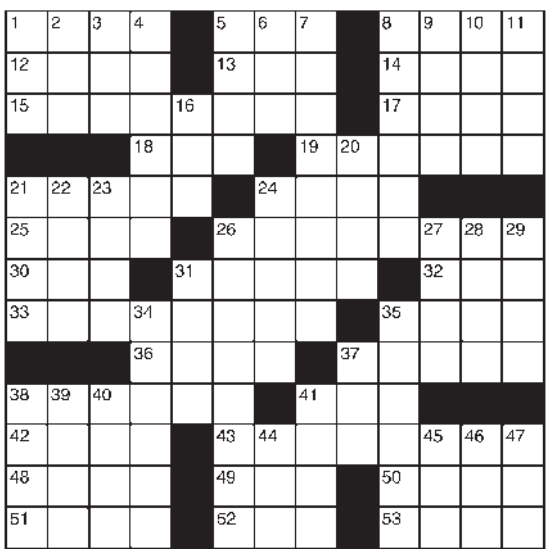
ACROSS
1 iPhone downloads
5 Pen name
8 Distort
12 Spruced up
13 Spanish gold
14 Opera set in Egypt
15 Strategy
17 Bridal accessory
18 Dig in
19 Whine
21 Quotidian
24 Author Uris
25 Charitable gifts
26 Scrabble, for one
30 Cagers' gp.
31 Push rudely
32 Victory
33 When a match starts
35 Hawked
36 Nov. honorees
37 Country store?
38 Party snack
41 Swelled head
42 Picked up the tab
43 Yankee Stadium event, to a Yankee
48 "Alfred" composer
49 Resistance unit
50 Footnote abbr.
51 Burn somewhat
52 Playpen item
53 Jacob's brother

DOWN
1 "Life of Pi" director Lee
2 Soup legume
3 Shriver of tennis
4 Braces (oneself)
5 Piece of hardware
6 Nest egg letters
7 Be frugal with
8 Socking away
9 Chicken —
10 Actress Falco
11 Humpty's perch
16 Salary
20 Central point
21 "Phooey!"
22 Jessica of "Dark Angel"
23 Mosque leader
24 Weavers' machines
26 Glowing from intense heat
27 Missing
28 "— 18" (Uris novel)
29 Goals
31 Dance move
34 Tax cheat
35 Inexpensive cigar
37 Census stat
38 Bookkeepers (Abbr.)
39 Swiss river
40 Jazz singer Simone
41 TV trophy
44 Discoverer's call
45 Sit-up targets
46 Ms. Farrow
47 College URL ender

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	B	E	■	H	I	F	I	S	■	S	S	E
A	O	K	■	O	L	L	I	E	■	I	A	D
S	W	E	E	T	L	O	V	E	■	I	N	A
■	■	■	D	U	E	■	E	M	B	L	E	M
U	N	S	U	N	G	■	S	E	L	L	■	■
M	O	A	■	D	A	D	■	D	O	L	E	S
P	A	L	L	■	L	A	M	■	T	I	R	E
S	H	E	A	F	■	L	A	P	■	F	I	R
■	■	M	O	O	H	■	N	O	V	E	N	A
H	A	S	S	L	E	■	A	K	A	■	■	■
O	R	L	■	S	I	A	G	E	L	E	F	I
E	G	O	■	O	H	S	E	H	■	W	A	D
D	O	T	■	M	Y	E	R	S	■	E	R	S

Yesterday's answer 12-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Raven-Symone, 39; Emmanuelle Chriqui, 49; Meg White, 50; Kenneth Branagh, 64.

Happy Birthday: You are in a better position than you realize. Toss negativity aside; it will only hold you back. Turn your attention to what makes you feel alive and become a part of something you can turn into a moneymaking endeavor that has the potential to expand and that encourages you to thrive. Live, learn and grow this year; your progress will boost your confidence and bring you joy. Your numbers are 7, 18, 21, 29, 33, 38, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take nothing for granted. If you want something done, do it yourself. How you handle situations will determine who you will draw into your circle. Be sure to take care of every detail to avoid technicalities that can put you behind schedule. An activity requiring physical attributes will pay off. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Giving up or giving in to someone putting pressure on you will leave you at odds about your future. Check out how best to raise your profile and qualifications. The confidence to promote yourself and what you have to offer will decide the outcome. Trust and believe in yourself. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Focus on what you can do to improve your life. Take a course, learn a new skill or make domestic alterations that make your space more inviting. Let your charm and desire to make a difference influence those you encounter. Follow through; be the one to make things happen. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spend time taking care of business instead of discussing your plans. Use your connections, call in favors, and stand up and be counted. Putting your heart and soul into whatever you do will give you the edge to outmaneuver anyone who tries to slow you down. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Set your plans in motion and finish what you start. Let your energy flow freely and efficiently as you strive to achieve your goals. A creative endeavor will offer a lesson that helps you to overcome any reservations regarding your skills or benchmarks you want to conquer. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Spend more time at home dealing with domestic matters and personal investments. Consider what will make your life easier and implement the changes that will put your mind at ease. Forward-thinking and executing your plans with discipline and detail will make a difference in how others treat you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Get moving. The more you fit into your day, the better. Travel, attend events and reunions or sign up for something motivational. The people you encounter will offer insight into potential opportunities to improve your life. Self-improvement projects will turn out well, and romance will be in the stars. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* A change of heart is likely, but first, understand the consequences. Avoid unsafe situations that can endanger your health or physical well-being. Stick to what and who you know and focus on projects that you find exciting. A networking or social event will lead to a beneficial encounter. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take pride in what you do; shortcuts won't pay off, and relying on someone else to do as good a job as you will fall short of your expectations. Build assets by investing in yourself and your home. Updating your look will be uplifting and encourage physical and emotional growth. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Work behind the scenes to avoid drama and those trying to force their will on you. Map out your route before you head out. Preparation will allow your intuition to take over and lead you down the path most likely to suit your needs. Personal updates will boost your confidence. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Refuse to let what others decide to do interfere with your plans. Put your heart and soul into creating the perfect environment to house your desires. Look for opportunities that allow you to utilize your space and talents to master what you do best. Explore, expand and excel. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Dig in and press forward until you reach your objective. Refuse to let anyone lead you off course or tempt you with gestures of grandeur that lack substance. Change begins with you. Research, follow proper protocol and let your innovative ideas point you in the right direction. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are progressive, ambitious and opportunistic. You are energetic and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	3	9	7	6		8	
8	2		3			7		
	7	9	8	1			6	3
			4		9			5
3	5			6	8			
2	9		7					
	6		1		7			
		5	6	8	3	9		
9					4		1	

Difficulty: ★★ 12/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Yesterday's Answer

9	3	5	2	7	1	6	4	8
2	8	6	4	9	5	1	7	3
1	4	7	8	3	6	2	9	5
8	2	9	5	6	4	7	3	1
7	6	4	3	1	9	8	5	2
5	1	3	7	8	2	9	6	4
3	9	1	6	4	8	5	2	7
6	7	2	1	5	3	4	8	9
4	5	8	9	2	7	3	1	6

Difficulty: ★ 12/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

PHILADELPHIA'S SEPTA Solution: 9 letters

N	E	S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	C	I	L	O	P
Y	O	T	T	O	R	R	E	S	D	A	L	E	B	E
S	T	R	I	A	T	N	W	O	T	A	N	I	H	C
N	R	I	R	Q	O	I	C	I	L	B	U	P	T	I
O	E	I	R	I	U	K	M	U	Y	E	N	L	O	V
I	G	R	O	O	S	E	V	E	L	T	D	L	U	R
T	N	O	R	F	H	T	T	E	T	R	E	F	R	E
A	E	W	O	D	S	T	O	T	A	A	Ⓡ	F	S	S
L	S	A	U	I	E	K	U	W	E	A	B	Ⓐ	A	N
L	S	L	T	R	R	C	R	A	N	S	V	L	Ⓘ	S
E	A	N	E	E	A	O	A	K	R	S	P	H	E	Ⓛ
C	P	U	S	C	F	R	F	K	R	A	P	A	R	X
N	S	T	A	T	I	O	N	S	P	U	R	O	M	D
A	R	O	T	A	R	E	P	O	A	S	E	A	T	S
C	W	O	O	D	L	A	N	D	E	L	A	Y	S	S

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Authority, Cancellations, Chinatown, Dauphin, Delays, Direct, Dock, Etiquette, Fares, Forward, Frankford, Front, Girard, Maps, Norristown, Olney, Operator, Park, Parx, Passenger, Police, Public, Rail, Rock, Roosevelt, Routes, Safety, Schedule, Seats, Service, Spur, Stations, Stops, Timetable, Torresdale, Tours, Walnut, Woodland

Yesterday's Answer: Value

For **WONDERWORD** apps, books & more, visit Wonderword.com, or call 1-855-232-2367.

Darnold sets 2 new career highs with 347 yards thrown, 5 TDs as Vikings beat Falcons

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Sam Darnold threw for 347 yards and five touchdowns, both career highs, and the Minnesota Vikings pulled away from Kirk Cousins and the Atlanta Falcons 42-21 on Sunday for their sixth straight victory.

Darnold added another highlight to his brilliant first season in Minnesota following the departure of Cousins in free agency to Atlanta with a 22-for-28 performance and no turnover-worthy plays despite heavy first-half pressure.

Darnold passed for 250 yards after halftime to help the Vikings (11-2) break a 21-all tie early in the fourth quarter and stay one game behind NFC North-leading Detroit with a final-week matchup looming with the Lions. Jordan Addison had eight catches for 133 yards and three scores and Justin Jefferson racked up seven receptions for 132 yards and two touchdowns after going the past six games without scoring.

Cousins threw two more interceptions without a touchdown in his return to Minnesota, where he was greeted by loud boos and left with Atlanta's fourth consecutive loss to tumble out of first place in the NFC South and fall one game behind Tampa Bay.

AP

Minnesota Vikings quarterback Sam Darnold (14) throws a pass during the second half of an NFL football game against the Atlanta Falcons, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024, in Minneapolis.

EAGLES 22, PANTHERS 16

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Saquon Barkley rushed for 124 yards to break the Eagles season record, Jalen Hurts threw two touchdown passes and ran for a score, and Philadelphia won its ninth straight game over Carolina.

The Eagles (11-2) maintained their position as the No. 2 team in the NFC, behind Detroit (12-1), after a mostly lethargic effort against the Panthers (3-10).

Barkley added another milestone in his MVP push when he used a 9-yard run in the fourth quarter to surpass LeSean McCoy's Eagles record of 1,607 yards, set in 2013. Barkley now has 1,623 yards with four games left.

A 12 1/2-point underdog according to BetMGM Sportsbook, the Panthers played more like a team with playoff seeding at stake.

STEELERS 27, BROWNS 14

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Russell Wilson threw for 158 yards and two touchdowns as Pittsburgh pulls away from mistake-prone Cleveland.

The Steelers (10-3) beat Cleveland at home during the regular season for the 21st straight time, even with leading receiver George Pickens watching from the sideline while missing the first game of his career due to a groin injury.

While it took Wilson a while to get going with the productive if volatile Pickens out of the mix, he found his footing in the second half by connecting on touchdown passes to Pat Freiermuth and Van Jefferson as the Steelers moved two games ahead of rival Baltimore for the AFC North lead with four weeks to go.

BUCCANEERS 28, RAIDERS 13

TAMPA, Fla. (AP)—Baker Mayfield threw for 295 yards and three touchdowns, helping Tampa Bay beat Las Vegas and take over sole possession of first place in the NFC South.

Mayfield tossed scoring passes of 15 yards and 29 yards to rookie Jalen McMillan. Rachaad White scored on a 5-yard reception and a 3-yard run as the Bucs (7-6) won for the third straight week against a last-place opponent to revive their hopes for a fourth consecutive division title.

The Raiders (2-11) lost quarterback Aidan O'Connell to a knee injury in addition to extending the NFL's longest losing streak to nine games.

O'Connell was carted off the field after being shoved to the ground by Bucs defensive lineman Calijah Kancey after throwing a pass late in the third quarter.

The quarterback, in his second game back after being sidelined nearly six weeks with a broken thumb, remained on the ground after an 8-yard, third-down completion to Jakobi Meyers. Kancey chased O'Connell out of the pocket toward the Bucs sideline and shoved him from behind after the ball was released.

Kancey was not penalized for a late hit.

DOLPHINS 32, JETS 26, OT

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Tua Tagovailoa threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Jonnu Smith in overtime and Miami overcame Aaron Rodgers' first 300-yard passing game in nearly three years to beat New York.

After Jason Sanders tied it with 7 seconds left in regulation with a 42-yard field goal, Tagovailoa quickly moved the Dolphins (6-7) down the field and they beat the Jets for the ninth straight time in Miami.

That came after Anders Carlson gave the struggling Jets (3-10)—who were eliminated from postseason contention for the 14th straight year—the lead with a 42-yarder with 52 seconds remaining. But Malik Washington put the Dolphins in great position to help set up Sanders' field goal with a 45-yard kickoff return to Miami's 46-yard line.

Tagovailoa was 33 of 47 for 331 yards and two TDs. He had just one incompletion on Miami's eight-play, 70-yard scoring drive that was capped by Smith's fourth touchdown of the season.

Smith didn't have a catch before catching three for 44 yards on the winning drive.

Rodgers was 27 of 39 for 339 yards, ending a drought of 34 regular-season games without a 300-yard passing game—dating to Dec. 12, 2021, while with Green Bay—and had a TD pass to Davante Adams.

JAGUARS 10, TITANS 6

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tank Bigsby ran for an 8-yard touchdown with 6:46 left as Jacksonville snaps a five-game skid and ends Tennessee's slim playoff hopes.

Jacksonville (3-10) came in already eliminated with Trevor Lawrence out for the rest of this season. The Jaguars leave with only their second victory in the past 11 trips to Music City and second in the past three.

The Titans (3-10) came in needing to win out to even have a chance of their first playoff berth since the 2021 season ended with a divisional loss on their home field. Tennessee has fired both a general manager and coach since then.

SAINTS 14, GIANTS 11

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Bryan Bresee leaped over the Giants' line to block a potential tying field goal with 11 seconds left, and New Orleans held on for a victory over New York after losing quarterback Derek Carr to an injury late in the fourth quarter.

The Giants lost their eighth straight, one shy of the team record.

Carr, who finished 20 of 31 for 219 yards, was hurt with just under four minutes to play when he dived for a first down near the Saints 40 and landed hard. He left the field shortly after the play and it almost cost the Saints (5-8).

New York got the ball back at its 27 with 1:21 to play and drove to the Saints 12, with Drew Lock scrambling for 25 yards on fourth down and then finding Malik Nabers for 23 yards. The Giants tried twice to throw to the end zone for a winning touchdown before sending out Graham Gano to try to force overtime. Gano's kick was a little low and the Giants couldn't defend the jumping Breese, who got a hand on the ball.

SEAHAWKS 30, CARDINALS 18

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Zach Charbonnet ran for a career-high 134 yards and two touchdowns, Geno Smith threw for 233 yards and a score, and Seattle beat Arizona to remain atop the NFC West.

The Seahawks (8-5) won their fourth straight and swept the season series from the Cardinals (6-7). They have won seven in a row against their division rival.

Seattle shook off an early deficit to take a 24-10 lead by halftime. Charbonnet broke a tackle at midfield and sprinted 51 yards for a touchdown with 2:36 left in the second quarter.

The 23-year-old Charbonnet thrived in an increased role, taking over for injured starter Kenneth Walker III. The second-year player also caught seven passes for 59 yards.

Smith completed 24 of 30 passes.

49ERS 38, CHICAGO 13

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Brock Purdy threw for 325 yards and two touchdowns and San Francisco bounced back from two blowout losses to beat Chicago and spoil interim coach Thomas Brown's debut for the Bears.

The 49ers (6-7) had been outscored by 53 points the past two weeks in losses at Green Bay and Buffalo that left their playoff hopes teetering with several stars such as Christian McCaffrey, Nick Bosa and Trent Williams sidelined by injuries.

But San Francisco delivered a performance more reminiscent of a year ago when the Niners went to the Super Bowl, handing the Bears (4-9) their seventh straight loss.

Purdy delivered his third 300-yard passing game of the season with two TDs to Jauan Jennings, fill-in back Isaac Guerendo gained 128 yards from scrimmage and scored on two TD runs and George Kittle had six catches for 151 yards. That helped deliver the highest-scoring game of the season for the 49ers.

RAMS 44, BILLS 42

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Matthew Stafford passed for 320 yards and hit Puka Nacua for a 19-yard touchdown with 1:54 to play, and Los Angeles overcame Josh Allen's record six-touchdown performance to snap the Buffalo Bills' seven-game winning streak with a victory.

Allen passed for 342 yards and three touchdowns and rushed for 82 yards and three more scores for the Bills (10-3), who hadn't lost since Oct. 6 in Houston. He became the first player in NFL history with three passing TDs and three rushing TDs in a game.

Allen capped his third long touchdown drive of the fourth quarter by scoring on a 1-yard dive with 1:00 left.

But Ronnie Rivers recovered the onside kick and Los Angeles (7-6) ran out the clock on its first win over Buffalo since 2012 and its first at home since 1983.

CHIEFS 19, CHARGERS 17

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Matthew Wright kicked a 31-yard field goal that banked off the left upright as time expired, and Kansas City survived another close game, beating Los Angeles to win their ninth straight AFC West title.

Patrick Mahomes led the two-time defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (12-1) on a clock-killing 4 1/2-minute drive to set up Wright's fourth field goal. It looked routine until the ball clanged off the upright in the latest narrow escape for Kansas City, which has won 10 games by a one-score margin.

Kansas City's nine straight division titles are two short of the New England Patriots' NFL record of 11.

The Chiefs led 13-0 at halftime after the Chargers (8-5) punted on their first five possessions, but Justin Herbert and LA woke up in the second half, scoring on each of their three drives. Cameron Dicker's 37-yard field goal put the Chargers ahead 17-16 with 4:35 left.

Mahomes then went to work, hitting Xavier Worthy for 14 yards on third-and-10 and scrambling for another first down. After the two-minute warning, Mahomes scrambled, dodged a would-be tackle and lobbed a throw to a kneeling Travis Kelce that allowed the Chiefs to run the clock down to zero.

Embiid scores 31 in his return as Sixers beat Bulls, 108-100

CHICAGO (AP)—Joel Embiid had 31 points and 12 rebounds in his return, Tyrese Maxey got his first career triple-double and the Philadelphia 76ers held on to beat the Chicago Bulls 108-100 on Sunday.

Maxey finished with 25 points, 14 assists and 11 rebounds. Paul George and Kelly Oubre Jr. each scored 12 as the Sixers won for the fourth time in five games.

Zach LaVine led Chicago with 30 points, and Nikola Vucevic and Coby White each had 13 in the Bulls' second straight loss.

Playing in just his fifth game this season, the 7-foot-0 Embiid started slowly, missing his first seven shots. Then, the two-time NBA scoring champion connected on eight of his next 10 in the second quarter for his first 19 points and powered the Sixers to a 62-50 halftime lead.

Embiid has missed the last seven games because of knee injuries and a three-game suspension for pushing a sports columnist.

Philadelphia opened a 19-point lead in third quarter before the Bulls narrowed it on a 13-1 run. Chicago closed to within four points twice in the fourth.

AP

Philadelphia 76ers center Joel Embiid (21) reacts after scoring a 3-point basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Chicago Bulls in Chicago, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2024.

BUCKS 118, NETS 113

NEW YORK (AP) —Giannis Antetkounmpo had 34 points, 11 rebounds and four assists and Milwaukee snapped a two-game skid with a win over Brooklyn.

Damien Lillard had 15 points and 11 assists and Bobby Portis added 23 points and five rebounds off the bench. The Bucks won for the 10th time in 13 games.

Dennis Schroder had 34 points and 10 assists, Cam Johnson scored 26 points and Nic Claxton added 21 points and nine rebounds as the Nets lost for the fourth time in five games, falling to 4-13 against Eastern Conference foes.

HORNETS 113, PACERS 109

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Brandon Miller hit two free throws in the final seconds and finished with 26 points as Charlotte snapped an eight-game losing streak with a win over Indiana.

Vasa Micic added 18 points and nine assists as Charlotte overcame 24 turnovers by shooting 51% from the field. Cody Martin finished with 14 points and six rebounds and Nick Richards had nine points and 14 rebounds.

T.J. McConnell scored a career-high 30 points and had six assists for the Pacers, who have lost five of their last six games. Jarace Walker added 15 points.

The banged-up Hornets prevailed without three of their top four scorers in LaMelo Ball, Miles Bridges and Tre Mann, who average a combined 61.2 points.

NUGGETS 141, HAWKS 111

ATLANTA (AP)—Nikola Jokic scored 48 points and Denver never trailed in their win over Atlanta.

The Nuggets snapped a two-game losing streak that included Saturday night's 122-113 loss at Washington, ending the Wizards' 16-game losing streak. Jokic scored a career-high 56 points in the loss.

Jokic kept up his hot shooting against Atlanta and added 14 rebounds and eight assists. Michael Porter Jr. matched his season high with 26 points.

De'Andre Hunter led Atlanta with 20 points. Hunter was escorted to the locker room midway through the third quarter after he was hit on his head on a blocked shot by Aaron Gordon, who was not called for a foul, but returned

Dyson Daniels added 18 points and Trae Young had 15 points and 10 assists for the Hawks.

HEAT 122, CAVALIERS 113

MIAMI (AP)—Tyler Herro scored 34 points, Duncan Robinson had 23 and Miami stayed hot by beating Cleveland.

Jimmy Butler scored 18 and Bam Adebayo had 16 points, 13 rebounds and six assists for Miami. Terry Rozier added 14 for the Heat.

Darius Garland scored 23 for Cleveland, which fell to 21-4 — still matching the best 25-game start in team history. Georges Niang scored 15 for the Cavs, who lost Evan Mobley in the first half to a sprained ankle.

Donovan Mitchell was held to 12 points on 5-of-16 shooting for Cleveland.

Both teams shot exactly 41 for 86 — 47.7% — in the game

MAGIC 115, SUNS 110

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Jalen Suggs scored 14 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter on Sunday night and Orlando beat Phoenix to remain the NBA's only team unbeaten at home this season.

Magic center Goga Bitadze had 21 points and a career-high 16 rebounds, including a game-clinching tip-in with 13.1 seconds left.

Devin Booker led the Suns with 25 points and seven assists. Tyus Jones added 21 points and Bradley Beal scored 18 before fouling out with 1:05 remaining.

Cole Anthony, who finished with 14 points, and Mo Wagner (10 points) sparked a comeback after the Magic had fallen behind by 12 points in the first quarter.

GRIZZLIES 140, WIZARDS 112

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jaren Jackson Jr. scored 21 points, Scotty Pippen Jr. had 14 points and 12 assists and short-handed Memphis romped to a victory over Washington.

Santi Aldama added 19 for Memphis, which played without two-time All-Star Ja Morant (back soreness) and swing man Brandon Clarke (toe soreness) after both started in Saturday night's win at Boston.

The Grizzlies shot 52.1% from the floor and 39.5% from 3-point range to win their third straight and ninth out of 10.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 20 points and grabbed 14 rebounds in 23 minutes, and Marvin Bagley III also had 20 points for Washington.

One night after scoring 39 points against Denver to help Washington snap a 16-game skid, Jordan Poole had just nine on 2-of-6 shooting.

SPURS 121, PELICANS 116

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Chris Paul moved into second place on the NBA's career assists list, Victor Wembanyama came back from an injury scare to score 25 points and San Antonio held on to beat New Orleans.

Paul had 10 assists, giving him 12,099 for his career and moving him past former Phoenix and Dallas star Jason Kidd (12,091).

Stephon Castle added 22 points for San Antonio, which snapped a three-game skid.

Wembanyama left the game with 8:59 remaining in the first quarter when he clutched his lower back. He had missed the previous two games with lower back soreness. But he returned to Sunday's game with 9:34 remaining in the second quarter.

Trey Murphy III scored 25 points and C.J. McCollum had 19 for the Pelicans. Dejounte Murray added 18 points and 11 assists and Yves Missi had 18 points and 14 rebounds.

WARRIORS 114, TIMBERWOLVES 106

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Stephen Curry sunk a 39-foot jumper from nearly half-court to beat the third-quarter buzzer and finished with 30 points and eight assists, leading Golden State past Minnesota Timberwolves in the teams' second meeting over three days.

Curry found Jonathan Kuminga for a go-ahead dunk with 2:55 to play and hit Buddy Hield for a clutch 3-pointer at the 58-second mark.

Hield scored 27 points, including consecutive 3-pointers midway through the third that tied the game at 69 and another that put Golden State ahead. Hield had seven 3s and is one shy of becoming the 17th player in NBA history to reach 2,000.

Kuminga had 20 points and seven rebounds.

Anthony Edwards scored 27 points as Minnesota's four-game winning streak ended.

ROCKETS 117, CLIPPERS 106

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Jalen Green scored 31 points, Amen Thompson added 22 and Houston defeated Los Angeles.

The Rockets ended a two-game skid without starter Fred VanVleet, who missed his first game of the season because of a right knee contusion.

Bones Hyland led the Clippers with 22 points off the bench, making a team-best five 3-pointers, and Ivica Zubac added 21 points and 12 rebounds. Kevin Porter Jr. had 19 points in his first career start for the team.

The Clippers lost their second straight at home after they suffered a 28-point drubbing at the hands of Minnesota on Wednesday. They kept it close in the first quarter before the Rockets took control.

KINGS 141, JAZZ 97

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Kevin Huerter had 26 points, including six 3-pointers, and Sacramento beat Utah.

The Kings, who have won three of their last four games, are an on offensive tear after scoring 140 points in Friday's win over the Spurs.

The Jazz, who have lost six of their last seven, were led by Keyonte George with 25 points, and John Collins with 19.

Sacramento opened a 20-point lead in the second quarter and led 62-45 at halftime. The Kings continued dominating with a 43-point third quarter with De'Aaron Fox beating the third quarter buzzer to give the Kings a 31-point lead heading into the fourth.

Fox added 21 points and nine assists, and Domantas Sabonis had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Doug McDermott hit six 3-pointers and had 18 points in the fourth quarter, igniting a "Doug-ie" chant from the Sacramento crowd.

LAKERS 107, TRAIL BLAZERS 98

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Anthony Davis scored 30 points and had 11 rebounds, D'Angelo Russell added 28 points with 14 assists and Los Angeles beat Portland Trail without LeBron James.

With James missing his first game of the season because of a left foot contusion, Max Christie started his second game for the Lakers and scored four points with four rebounds.

Rui Hachimura scored 23 points for Los Angeles, which ended a three-game losing streak. The Lakers had dropped seven of their previous nine games.

Deandre Ayton scored 14 points with 19 rebounds for the Trail Blazers, who lost their fourth consecutive game and have dropped six of their last seven. Shaedon Sharpe scored 19 points for Portland, which was coming off a 42-point loss to the Utah Jazz at home Friday.

Juan Soto's $765M deal with Mets is largest in MLB history

Juan Soto and the New York Mets agreed to a record $765 million, 15-year contract Sunday night, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the agreement hadn't been announced and was subject to the completion of a successful physical.

It's the 12th contract worth at least $325 million in Major League Baseball. Here are the rest. Figures were obtained by The Associated Press from player and management sources and include all guaranteed income but not income from potential incentive bonuses. There is no distinction for deferred money:

Juan Soto, N.Y. Mets, 2025-2039, $765 million

Soto's deal easily surpassed Shohei Ohtani's $700 million agreement from the prior winter for what's believed to be the biggest in sports history, and Soto's contract doesn't include any deferred payments. He turned down Washington's $440 million, 15-year offer in 2022, was later traded to San Diego and then the New York Yankees before reaching free agency at just 26 years old. Soto is the most accomplished free agent at that age since shortstop Alex Rodriguez agreed to a record $252 million, 10-year contract with Texas in December 2000 at age 25.

» Here's who he passed

Shohei Ohtani, L.A. Dodgers, 2024-33, $700 million

Because it includes $680 million in deferred money payable from 2034-43, the deal Ohtani agreed to as a free agent is valued differently in various methods. For the luxury tax, it is discounted at 4.33% and listed as about $46.08 million annually. The players' association discounted it at 5% and valued it at approximately $43.7 million. For MLB regular payrolls, it is discounted 10% and listed at about $28.2 million.

AP

New York Yankees' Juan Soto celebrates after hitting a home run against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the third inning in Game 2 of the baseball World Series, Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, in Los Angeles.

Ohtani won his first World Series title and third MVP award in the deal's first year after hitting .310 with an NL-best 54 homers, 130 RBIs and 1.036 OPS. He stole 59 bases, becoming the first 50-50 player. He is expected to return to pitching in 2025 after recovering from elbow surgery.

Mike Trout, L.A. Angels, 2019-30, $426.5 million

Trout won his third AL MVP award in the first year of a contract agreed to in March 2019, but the 11-time All-Star has played in just 266 games over the last four seasons because of a strained right calf, back spasms, broken left hand and torn meniscus in left knee. His hitting .281 in six seasons of the contract with 138 homers, 306 RBIs and a .995 OPS.

Mookie Betts, L.A. Dodgers, 2021-32, $365 million

Betts agreed to the deal in July 2020, five months after he was acquired from Boston, and helped the Dodgers win titles in 2020 and 2024. An eight-time All-Star, Betts is hitting .283 with 116 homers, 322 RBIs, 52 stolen bases and an .899 OPS in the first four years of the deal.

Aaron Judge, N.Y. Yankees, 2023-31, $360 million

Judge agreed to the deal after becoming a free agent and then was appointed Yankees captain. Judge earned his fifth and sixth All-Star selections in the first two years of the contract, hitting .300 with 95 homers, 219 RBIs, 221 walks and an 1.104 OPS. He helped the Yankees reach the 2024 World Series, their first appearance since winning the 2009 title.

Manny Machado, San Diego, 2023-33, $350 million

Machado signed a $300 million, 10-year contract with the Padres as a free agent in February 2019 that gave him the right to opt out after the 2023 season and forfeit $150 million. The Padres gave him the new deal in March 2023, raising their commitment to him to $470 million over 14 seasons. He has a .275 average with 167 homers and 536 RBIs in six seasons with the Padres, earning two All-Star selections that raised his career total to six. He has a .267 average with 59 homers and 196 RBIs in the first two seasons of his latest deal.

CRISTOBAL

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we did get kind of confused at the portion of the race at Ming Yang. We were directed straight but that was for the long course, so we had to turn around. That's why we had to catch up again, so it was hard."

Despite that, he said of his win, "I'm so happy that I won. It's my first time to win this race. I don't have much training, that's why I just joined the 50km race instead of the 100km. Last year, I had more practice so I joined the 100km race."

In the women's division, the NMI's Heather Brook rushed to the finish line first with a time of 1:49:05; second was South Korea's Hyowoon Kim at 1:52:18; and third was also South Korea's Ha Song with 1:53:12.

As for the MTB 50km short course, Michael Aparte clocked in first with a time of 1:46:09; second was Gerald Campos at 1:46:11; and third went to Bryan Ytac at 1:46:37.

In the women's division, Arianne Baculod was first at 1:41:38; second was Kris Romero with her time of 2:55:36; and third was Monique Mascarinas at 3:09:07.

In the non-pro long course 100km men's division, NMI bikers claimed seven of the Top 10 spots.

Japan's Ryusei Kuragagi raced in at 3:32:52; the NMI's Arvin Velasco was second with a time of 3:34:37; Guam's Dan Aponik was third at 3:46:44; the NMI's Joel Buco was at 3:49:15; the NMI's Fred Remelloza came in at 4:02:44; the NMI's Napoleon Dizon was at 4:07:19; Guam's Jake Gimoto had a time of 4:07:23; the NMI's Paolo Pepito had a time of 4:08:57; the NMI's Jay-Ar Barrios was at 4:11:44; and the NMI's Leo Baetiong rounded it up with a time of 4:23:36.

In the women's division, Robyn Spaeth was first at 4:28:15; Kimiko McKagan was second at 4:47:53; South Korea's Eunji Bong was third at 5:11:1; fourth was Guam's Jamie Rivas at 6:03:44; and fifth was South Korea's Nahyun Kim at 6:07:23.

First place received $300; second received $200; third was given $100; fourth received $75; fifth received $50; and sixth to 10th place received $25 each.

The race, jointly organized by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation, attracted cyclists from around the world to take on the island's challenging terrain. Participating countries and territories in this year's race were South Korea, Japan, Russia, Guam, USA, CNMI, and the Netherlands.

The race was sponsored by the TSL Foundation, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, United Airlines, Hawaiian Rock Product, Saipan Bike Pro, Seman Law Offices, Latte Built, and TurnKey Solutions. Event supporters were the Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Works, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, and Division of Parks and Recreation.

OLD

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on top this season which was a perfect ending."

He added, "thanks to the Old B Bank team for always giving their 100% in every game and thanks to all the teams in the MSL 2 who made this league very intense. That's pretty much it. On [to] the next season again."

The players of Old B Bank included Naoki Oura, Andrei Ferrer, Raymond Zapanta, Jether Yobech, Kosuke Sato, Lin Xiao Feng, Richard Waldo Jr., Aliilua Peteru, Jershwin Angeles, John Canape, Kevin McCale, Henok Bezabih, Rex De Jose, Trevor Repp, Ruselle Zapanta, Norman Camacho, Bryant Dy, James Garcia, Neil Gebhard, Daniel Matsunaga, Leif Pagtalunan, Maynard Reyes, and Suguru Takahashi.

In the battle for third place, Hana FC ruled over Matansa, 3-2.

LEIGH GASES

PSS' Derek Olopai gets the jumpball during one of their games against CUC in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

LEIGH GASES

PSS' Melvin Sakisat spins for a reverse layup against CUC in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PSS

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Itibus came out of the gates with such an intensity that had Coca—Cola reeling just mere minutes into the game. By the end of the first quarter, PSS was up by double digits, 34-11.

The lead only ballooned from there as Coca-Cola could not catch up to a speedier PSS team. PSS' ball-handling and defense held Coca-Cola to just 9 points in the second quarter, while their offense exploded into unimaginable proportions.

PSS was just cruising through the court at this point as the lead they had built became as insurmountable as scaling up Mt. Everest. By the end of the first half, PSS stamped their dominance with a 50-point lead, 70-20.

The second half had PSS written all over it once again as Preston Basa kept Coca-Cola on their toes with all of his points made from beyond the arc. Tekopua and Sakisat kept up the pace with their continuous field goal conversions, along with contributions from John Pineda.

Tekopua put up 28 markers, while Basa contributed 21 points all from beyond the arc, and Sakisat contributed 19 points.

Capalad was the only player in double digits for Coca-Cola as he scored 18, while Ytac had 9 points.

In the other game that day, CPA routed E-Land, 74-64.

PSS 121 – Tekopua 28, P. Basa 21, Sakisat 19, Pineda 16, T. Basa 8, Itibus 8, Olopai 6, Villagomez 6, Pascual 6.

Coca-Cola 45 – Capalad 18, Ytac 9, Atan 5, Villacrusis 4, Yugumnang 4, Escalada 3, Basa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 34-11, 70-20, 89-35, 121-45.

Darnold sets 2 new career highs with 347 yards thrown, 5 TDs as Vikings beat Falcons.

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Sports

Juan Soto's $765M deal with Mets is largest in MLB history.

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Old B Bank cashes in on MSL 2 finals

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Old B Bank cashed in on their dominance of the Marianas Soccer League 2 with a championship win over Paire FC, 1-0, last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Old B Bank had the best record in the regular season with six wins, no draws, and one loss and found themselves in the finals against No. 2 Paire.

It was a cliff-hanger showdown that held everyone captivated from start to finish as both teams put everything on the line for the coveted title. A lot of back-and-forth action from the opening whistle ensued, but their defenses held steadfast.

Both teams had opportunities at the net, but could not convert until the 29th minute when Old B Bank's Rex De Jose let one fly to put them up, 1-0.

Old B Bank managed to hold on to their narrow lead as time ran out, and when the final whistle blew, they let out a sigh of relief as they redeemed themselves after falling short last season.

The Golden Boot award was given to John Canape with nine goals in the season.

He said of the season and their win, the "season was very good for myself and my team. It's good to win [the] championship because we lost our semifinal game last season to Paire FC, but we came out

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NMIFA

Champions Old B Bank's John Canape, second left, is the Golden Boot Award winner with nine goals in the Marianas Soccer League 2 after their finals last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

NMIFA

Champion Old B Bank poses for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the Marianas Soccer League 2 after their finals last Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Cristobal, Brook top short course of HOM

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The shorter yet just as grueling course of the 2024 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle was dominated by Hernando Cristobal and Heather Brook.

The 50-kilometer course snaked through Saipan starting from the former Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi going south along Middle Road, and back.

Cristobal, despite getting lost for a bit, still managed to come in first place with a time of 1:42:31. Second was Willy Barbo at 1:44:04, and third was Pax Guevarra who clocked in just three seconds behind at 1:44:07.

The 49-year-old Yuman construction worker said in Filipino, "The course was flat and the only inclines were only at NMC [As Terlaje] hill and Papago, so it was much faster to race through, unlike the 100km race where they had a portion at the Radar tower."

He added, "The weather was good. It didn't rain so the road was nice. However,

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LEIGH GASES

2024 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle short course 50-kilometer first place overall winner Hernando Cristobal pedals to the finish line last Saturday at the former Marianas Resort & Spa.

LEIGH GASES

Top 10 men in the non-pro long course 100km of the 2024 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan last Saturday.

LEIGH GASES

Top 5 women in the non-pro long course 100km of the 2024 Hell of Marianas Century Cycle pose for a group photo during the awards ceremo

PSS schools Coca-Cola, 121-45

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

PSS schooled Coca-Cola in a lopsided 121-45 game during the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

PSS made light work of the non-sweet shooting Coca-Cola from the opening jump ball and locked them down without much of a fight.

Melvin Sakisat, Mi'i Tekopua, and Maverick

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LEIGH GASES

PSS' Mi'i Tekopua leaps for the rebound during one of their games against CUC in the 2nd Annual R&J Wine and Liquor Inter-Gov't/Business League 2024 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.